OUR Precious

1

CONVERSATIONS

ROBICO

Our Precious Conversations

1

Presented by Robico

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I love you.

*STOP

I love you.

*Heiwadai High School Harvest Festival

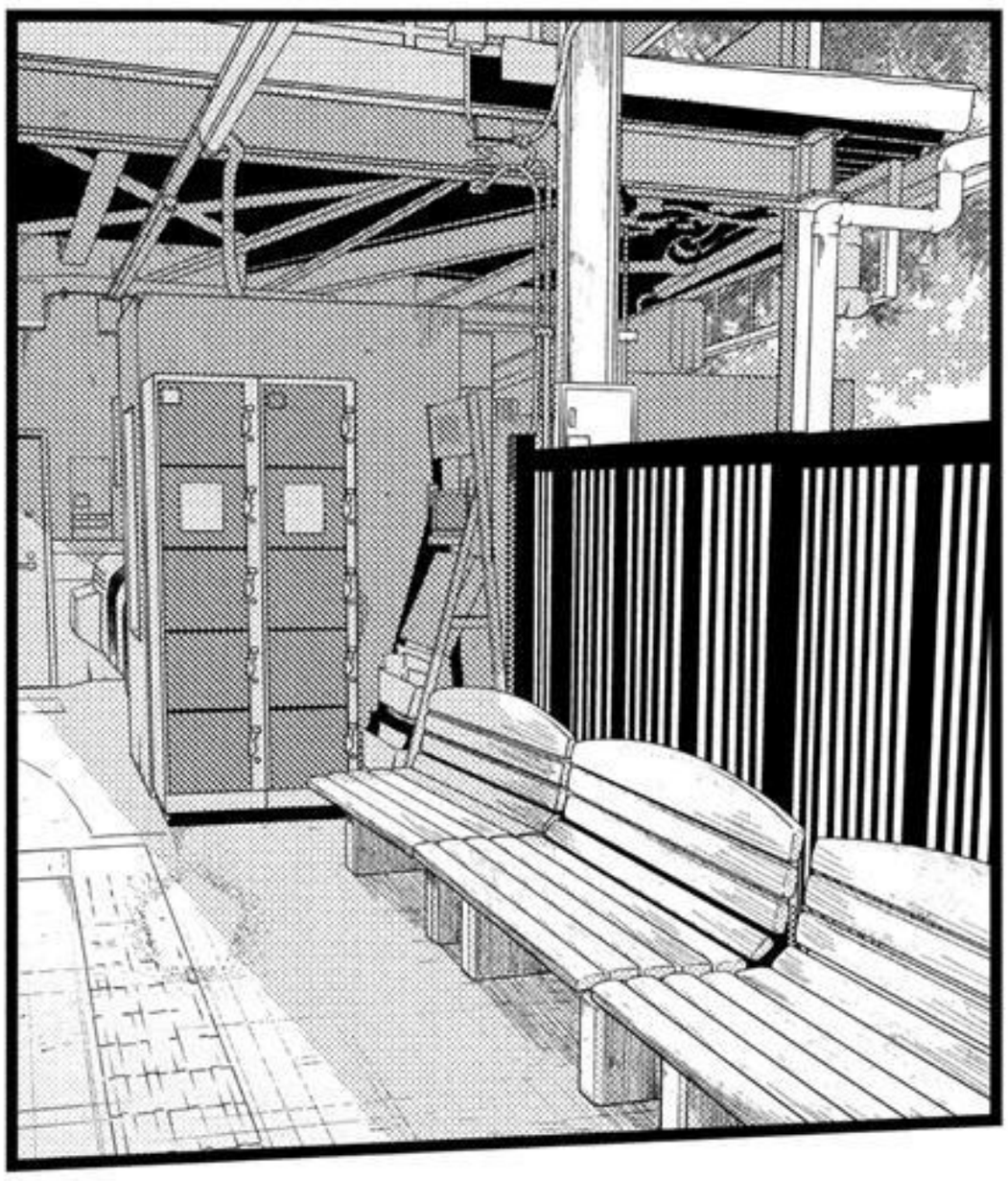
Please...

...accept my feelings.



ep. 1 Our Precious Conversations Begin


Well... if you don't tell your own stories, nobody knows to ask.
Hey, Azuma-kun... Why do boys tell boastful stories when no one's asked to hear them?






OH 03
へいわ台
へいわだい
Heiwadai
(平和台高校入口)
OH 04
隣野
Tonarino
つぶ貝
Tsubukai


GATACK
GOTOCK
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
GATACK
GOTOCK


WHOOSH
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
gatack, gotock

Heiwadai

つぶ貝
Tsubukai

（平和台高校入口）

隣野
Tonarino

第27回 平和台高校
収穫祭
今輝ける青春の芽を

運行のおやらせ

肛門科・ひふ科
よしじま医院

診療時間
月火 9:00~5:00
水木 10:00~5:00
金土 9:00~3:00
日祝 9:00~12:00

薬

出口
Exit

…

GATACK GOTOCK
ゴトン ゴトン

WHOOSH

…

Why is it...

…

楽しいスキューバダイビング

旅行激安

運行休止のお知

...that boys like fighting so much?

人間失格

No Longer Human by Osamu Dazai

And why can they throw laser beams from their hands?

What's supposed to come of that?

Why do they fight?

Every last one of them was about fighting.

Just as one battle ended, instead of having people grow and change, a new battle would begin.

I read some of my little brother's comics.

The other day,

You say that,

but don't girls' comics do the same thing?

But those are the good parts of *shojo* manga!

What could be more important?

...

No matter the setting, it's always about some love affair.

Why does some unattractive protagonist always have two guys chasing after her, anyway?

And the guy and the girl get together in such a short span of time.

Plus, why does the guy always have to have some trauma or whatever to overcome?

Just kid-ding!

I don't really care about all of that.

If you don't care, why'd you interrupt me while I was reading?

中央電鉄 へいわ台駅

CENTRAL RAILWAY HEIWADAI STATION

Shiro Azuma-kun, second year, class four...

...I like you.

...

You are...

...Aizawa-san from class two, right?

Yes. Nozomi Aizawa.

Don't tell me...

...you followed me home from school just to say that?

...I did.

トゥ BA-DUM
トゥ BA-DUM

That's not very nice.

I'm... I'm so sorry.

I just... I had to tell you how I feel!

Even guys get scared when they're followed like that.

What if it's someone suspicious? Maybe it's someone who thinks I'm suspicious! Even if there's a one-in-a-thousand chance of something happening, it makes me nervous.

?!

肛門科・ひふ科

You shouldn't do that, either.

Pursuing someone who's shown no interest in you is the **height of folly** for a woman.

...but just as an example, I collect Pocket Kingdom cards.

Pretty much all of my allowance for five years straight...

...went towards buying packs of them.

...

Now, this is just my opinion...

In all that time, the card I wanted most, the rarest of the rare, was the holofoil summer variant "Wholesnow."

POCKET KINGDOM

Wholesnow

And then, one day,

I saw one just sitting on the sidewalk outside the candy store.

What do you think I did?

W-well...

You took it, right?

Since you wanted it so badly...

That's right. I took it.

I was so happy, I skipped the whole way home.

I feel like receiving a love confession...

...is a lot like that.

However, after that, it felt like I'd missed out on something important. My passion faded.

Eventually, my mother packed away my Pocket Kingdom cards, and I haven't touched them since.

I'm sorry. I don't get what you're trying to say at all.

...I see.

Basically, men live for the thrill of accomplishment. If we're just handed something, it's not satisfying at all.

Oh. I get it.

You should've just said that in the first place.

So all I did...

...was watch you from afar.

I never really knew how to approach you or what I should say.

I...

...don't have much experience talking to boys.

I'm sorry...

...if I scared you off.

Oh, no.

I mean...

...you didn't...

I wouldn't go that far...

All I could bring myself to do...

...was pick up the notebook you'd left in the science room or sneak into your classroom and take your pencils and erasers and things...

...or stuff like that...

Here, I'll give back your notebook, too!

I wanted to confess my feelings to you as soon as I could so at least I'd know if I was going to be rejected or not!

YOU HAVE AN ODDLY OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK HERE!

2-4 Shiro Azuma

Science

I know that! I know!

Stealing is wrong, you know!

No wonder my things have been going missing!

I just couldn't help myself!

What did you think was going on?

Wait.

Did you really come here just to confess to me?

Uh, yes? I told you that already, didn't I?

Urk!

ahem

A-anyway...

I'll take my note-book back—

SNATCH

Aaah!

THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
...
I was the one who pulled it out of your hands suddenly...
N—
No...
WHAP!
I'M...
I'M SORRY!
...my life has changed since I fell for you.
Azuma-kun... I feel like...

I was thinking ...

If you want...

Maybe we...

...could be friends?





...

SLUMP

...Aizawa-san?

へいわだい
Heiwadai
つぶ貝 Tsubukai
（平和台高校入口）
隊 Tonai

収穫祭

よしじま医院

HUH?

I remembered that I have to be somewhere.

I-I'm sorry...

Your leg hair... I mean, I...

Aizawa-san?

Hey?

Wait. Somewhere?

1
湯田
縣沢
各停 本田木
The train is now arriving on platform two.
ILBIRLING
へいわ口
Heiw
ヘイヘイ
FWOOSH
...
Those wishing to board, please wait behind the white line.
pat
pat
pat
That's the first time in my life
I've ever had a long conver-sation with a girl...

She smelled kinda nice...

中央電鉄
へいわ台駅
Heiwadai Station

The next day...

...I met Aizawa-san's eyes, but she turned away.

I've decided to forget all about it.

Azuma's sock report
Part one

Red with light blue polka dots
Ribbed cotton for a comfortable fit
A three-pack is ¥980*

*Approximately $9.80


SPOILS of WAR
...were returned to Azuma-kun.
Science
Most of the items stolen with love...
2-4
Shiro Azuma
It's still unused, but...
...it looks so good!
I'm sorry!
I couldn't admit I stole his lip balm, too!


The moment she got it:
Azuma-kun dropped his lip balm!
Whoa!
It's Azuma-kun's lip balm!

ep. 2 The Crossroads of Men and Women

1

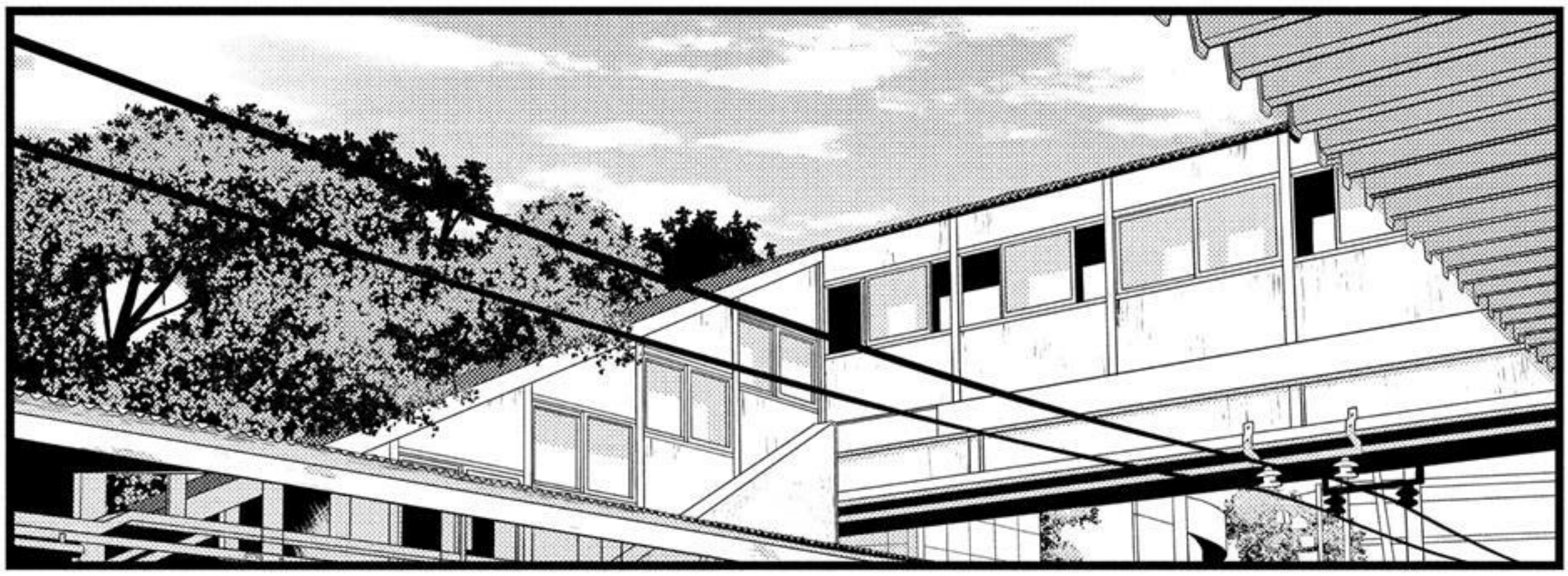
自分の小さな「箱」から脱出する方法

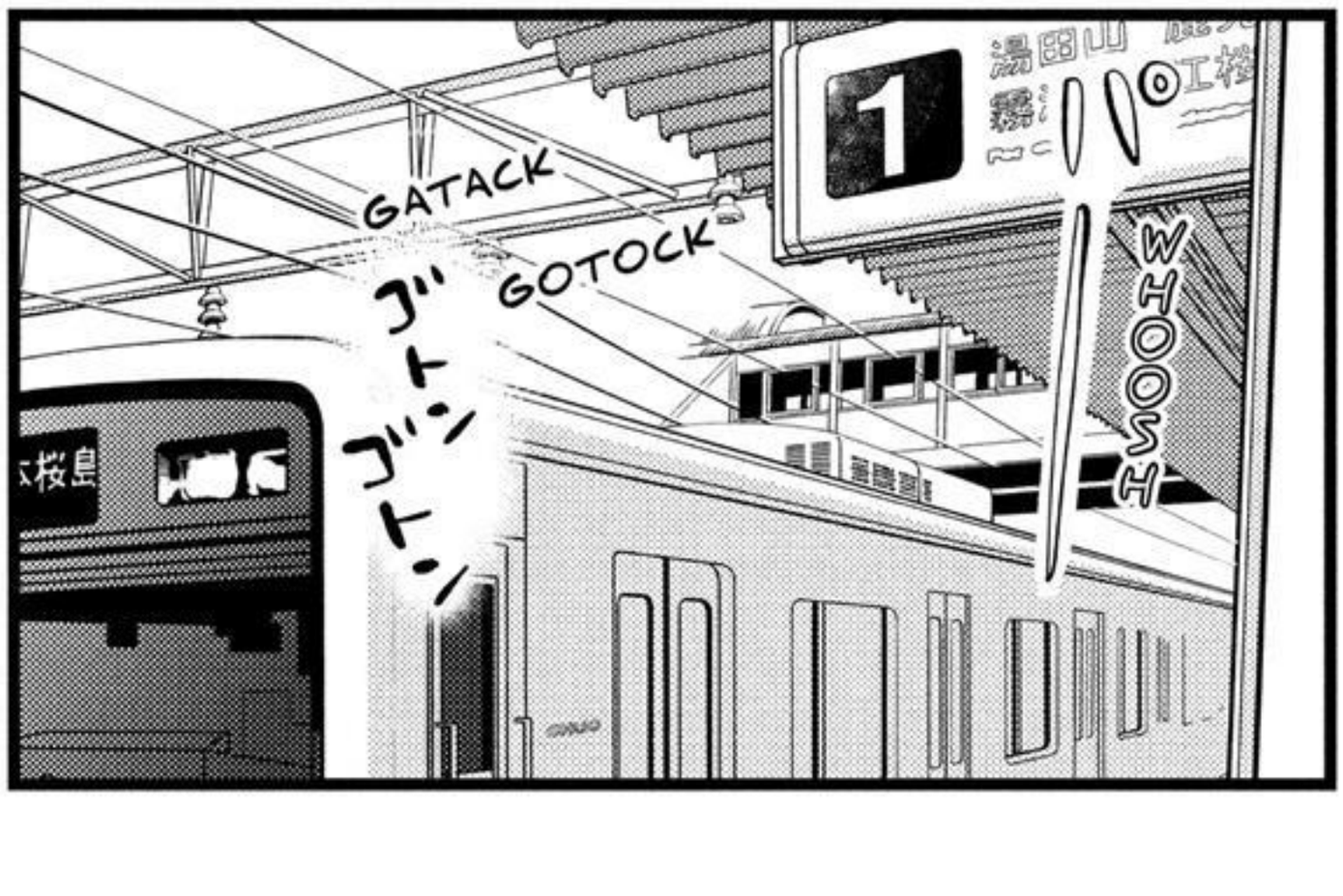
*Leadership and Self-Deception: Getting Out of the Box

And now, an update from the previous chapter!

Aizawa-san, who had fallen in love with Azuma-kun, became somewhat disillusioned after seeing his leg hair.

However, today on the train, he saved her from a molester, and she fell in love anew.







つぶ貝
Tsubukai

（平和台高校入口）

隣野
Tonarino

二一

第27回 平和台高校
収穫祭
―今輝ける青春の芽と―

運行のお知らせ

肛門科・ひふ科
よしじま医院

診療時間
月火 9:00~5:00
水木 10:00~5:00
金土 9:00~3:00
日祝 9:00~12:00

…

Why are women...

出口

...such weak creatures, do you suppose?

戦争と平和

*War and Peace

I know I shouldn't, yet I persist in chasing after you.

I still long to hear your voice.

お願い

I don't mean to be such a bother...

Before I fell in love with you, I...

I didn't think I'd ever become this kind of person.

So...

Why is it, do you think, that women are so pathetic?

Or is it that...

...anyone who falls in love turns out this way?

Aren't you just letting yourself off the hook?

Unfortunately, these earbuds were designed with user safety in mind, so they're not great at isolating noise.

Oh, were you listening this whole time?

Why is it you say you want to lose weight but then eat sweets?

Or apologize but then continue on with a long, loud conversation?

It's because you coddle yourself, acting like everything's okay. And by treating yourself like that, you force everyone around you to accept it, too.

I can't believe it. Not only did you follow me again, you sat next to me and blathered on and on...

That you still do it even though you know it's wrong is likely because you think it's not actually that bad a thing to do.

Frankly, I've never met a woman who could exercise even the slightest bit of self-restraint.

Then exercise some restraint.

THAT'S... THAT'S NOT TRUE! THE REGRET YOU FEEL AFTER EATING SWEETS IS REALLY STRONG, YOU KNOW!

IMPOSSIBLE! THEY'RE SO TASTY.

That's... That's not it. I've been dying to talk to you, but I couldn't bring myself to do it.

And then you saved me on the train this morning, and I was just so happy...

...You're the one who's been avoiding me since the last time we had a conversation here.

Why'd you want to see me all of a sudden?

It was just... surprising.

It...kinda ruined the mood a bit.

...I'm sorry I avoided you.

When I saw your... lower half...

Did you just come here to add insult to injury?!

Aaah!

sigh... はあ…

What nonsense are you—

I just... The mismatch between what I'd imagined and what I saw was too much to bear!

No! It was a simple mistake!

You change your minds on a whim, swayed by these all-important feelings of yours.

You women go too easy on yourselves!

Okay, you know what? This is exactly what I was talking about!

You'll go home with a guy and then say, "Actually, I can't today! ♡"

Or you'll be happy throughout dinner, then sour into a bad mood right after!

It's like your whole personality changes!

Of course not! I've never even dated anyone!

It's all my imagination!

These scenarios are oddly specific... Have you had a bad experience before?

Hey, Azuma-kun...? Calm down, okay?

Now you're the one being oddly specific!

I'm just making it up, too!

But as a girl, I feel like I understand why someone might do that.

Still... I bet the girl would have good reasons for doing those things!

Like maybe she was wearing underwear that wasn't very cute.

Or maybe she looked at her face in a mirror and thought she looked bad!

That's supposed to help me understand why?!

Maybe she just didn't feel like it!

I just can't believe women like you come from the same *planet* as me.

Sigh... I've been thinking about this for a while, you know.

You saved me...

You talk to me...

Then...

...why not just avoid us?

第27回 千和台高校

肛門科

よし

診療
月火 9:0
水木 10:0
金土 9:0
日祝 9:0

薬

Well...

I can't just ignore you, can I?

That'd be rude.

It...

...gives me hope.

...even if you're a girl...

...even if you say silly things...

...

Hmm~

DISAPPOINTED

...I suppose.

However ...

...I don't want to put an end to our conversations.

FWOOSH

So...

Even if we are from different planets...

If I one-sidedly decide to cut off communication, isn't that a wasted opportunity?

...words bridge that gap.

Besides, the things you talk about...

They're so far removed from what I'd think about... it's fun.

...oh.

You really are the type to hold a grudge, aren't you?!

Were you really that shocked to see my leg?

I only realized that was what happened today!

Don't worry. I won't forget what we're talking about.

I'm not really that good at conversation, so I can't ever really remember what I want to say.

Ha ha ha

I just get so nervous...

Heh heh heh...

...

GATACK

GOTOCK

...Azuma-kun.

Why don't we...

...have a fresh start?

Let's be frien—



急行
EXPRESS
ゴトン
ゴトン
GATACK
GOTOCK

…

肛門科·ひふ科
よしじま医院
診療時間
月火 9:00~5:00
水木 10:00~5:00
金土 9:00~3:00
日祝 9:00~12:00

Umm
…

薬

What underw— I mean, what were we talking about?

Aaaah!

WAIT!
IT'S OKAY!
IT'S OKAY!

Piss off!

I SHOULD BE THANKING YOU!

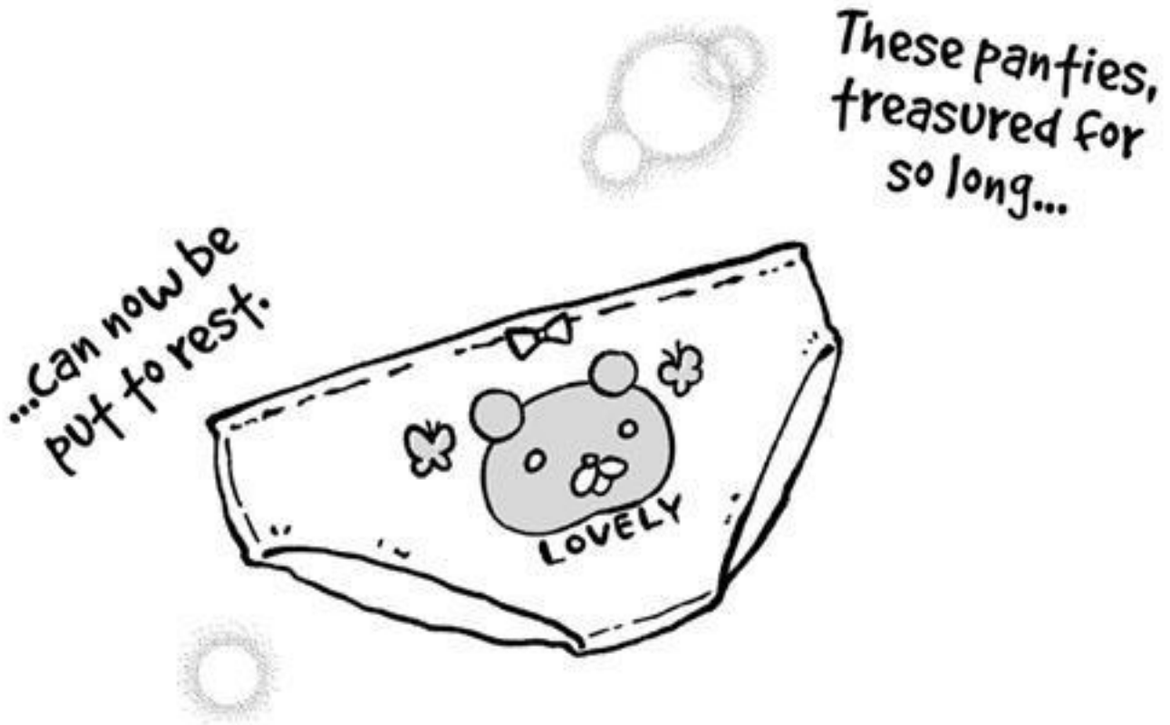
DASH

I dunno... I could see them pretty well...

Now that I think about it, I was wearing tights, so it was probably fine!

↑ after worrying about it all night, decided to drop it

In the end, they were on speaking terms again.


These panties, treasured for so long...
...can now be put to rest.
LOVELY


CAREFUL CONSIDERATION
But why? Then again, I guess girls are pretty frantic about removing unwanted hair... Could it be that they really hate hair that much?
It's gotta be the leg hair. I guess girls freak out when they see it?
I guess the key really is "unwanted" hair... But which hair is unwanted?!
Ah!
But where does that leave beards?! I thought bearded men were supposed to be popular!


He suddenly realized how hardcore girls really are.
duct tape
So then he tried removing it...
OW!
RIIIP

ep. 3

Women's Worries Mix Them Up Like Natto

And now, an update from the previous chapter!

Aizawa-san was in love with Azuma-kun, who accidentally saw her panties. Now they're friends.

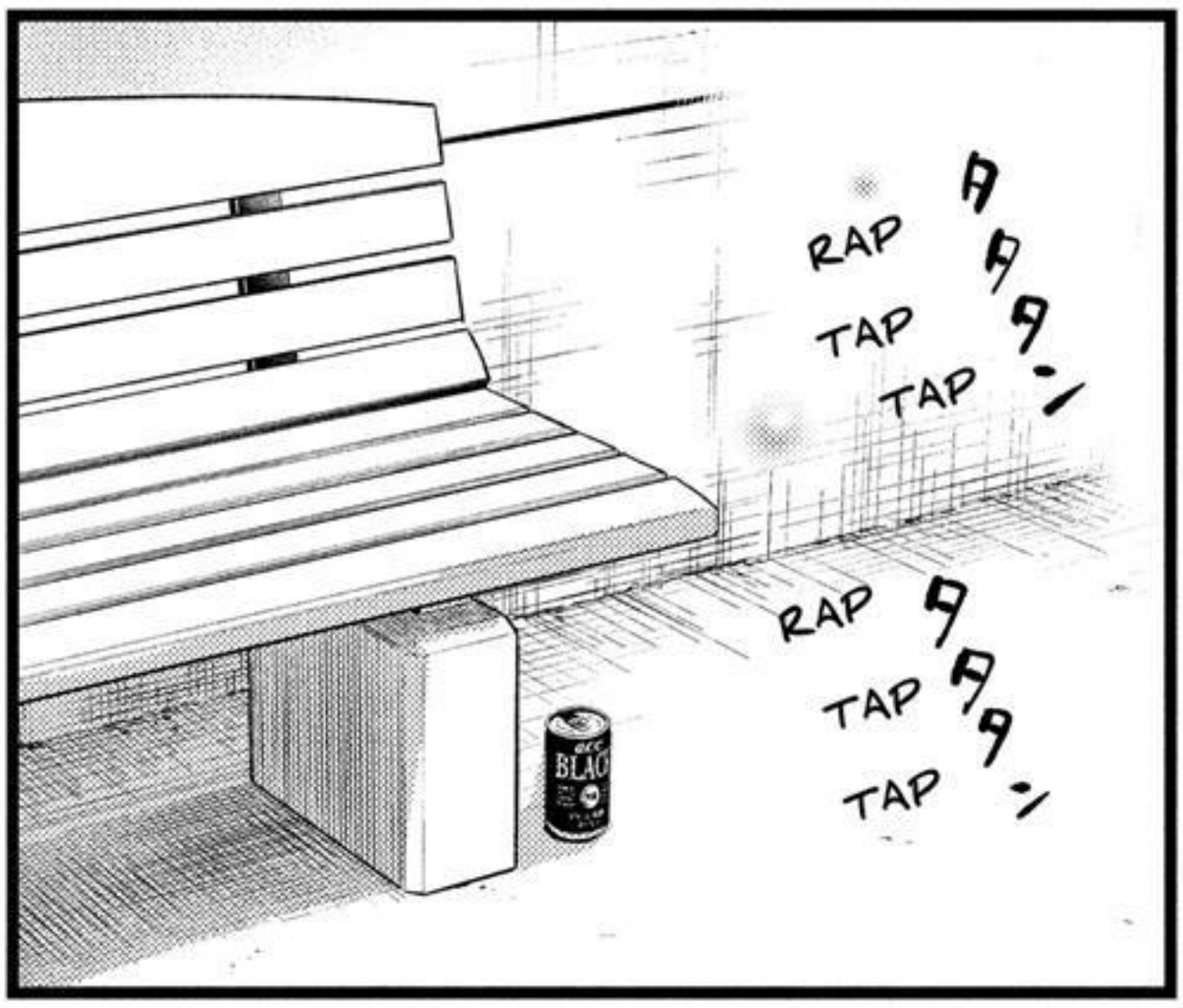
However, today at school,

Aizawa-san witnessed something rather shocking!




2
1


OH
03
へいわだい
Heiwadai
平和台高校入口
Hey...
Azuma-
kun.


RAP
TAP
TAP
RAP
TAP
TAP

Do you have any memories you'd rather forget?

人を動かす

*How to Win Friends and Influence People



Is this about the underw—

I'VE ALREADY FORGOTTEN ABOUT THAT.

Hmm... Can't really say I have any.

I see. Some of mine are so embarrassing, I could die.

Like, maybe you accidentally used the wrong word...

Or maybe you mistook somebody for someone else...

Things you really wish you could forget, but can't.

Like, in sixth-year elementary, I took piano lessons, right?

One day, an older student came by and was really nice to us and taught us a bunch of things.

She was often top-ranked in competitions.

Everyone makes mistakes like that sometimes.

First of all, it's not like the other person is going to remember something like that.

Dwelling on it is just being excessively self-conscious.

It's just, when I remember what I was like back then...

...and how I just wanted to get rid of that annoying, uppity little...!

Aaah... She was really such a nice person, though!

Hey! Get ahold of yourself, Aizawa-san!

You know... You seem to really like having conversations out here.

But you never talk to me at school.

How arrogant men must be to think like that!

How nice it must be to be an adolescent boy who's never made an embarrassing mistake in his life!

What are you getting so worked up about?

I don't think that's really a male-female thing...

This is probably what she actually wanted to talk about...

Well... Speaking of school...

Well, that made me notice something...

Yes, that's true.

Lately, we've gotten to the point where we're at least close enough to greet each other at school.

Surprisingly, you have a *lot* of friends.

...and today...

During breaks, you're always having fun with your classmates.

I recently saw you talking with some upper-classmen...

Azuma-kun.

BA-DUM ドキ BA-DUM ドキ

Nozo-min~! Let's go!

...there was one girl who was really close to you.

Aizawa-san's focal point

...

ピロン FLASH

It just felt like you have such a wide circle of friends!

I really admire that!

SIGH

...So, it begins.

YOU'RE VETTING ME.

That way you can carefully inspect his actions and then accept or reject them!

YOU WANT TO CONTROL HIS VERY PERSONALITY!

BA-DUMU

That- That's not-

I know the tricks you women play.

At first, you'll pretend to be all meek and agreeable so you can get close...

...and wait for the boy to lower his guard...

This is wrong! That's wrong, too!

What gives you women the right to judge a man's actions, huh?!

What is it? You're on your period? You're depressed? Don't think your excuses will work on me!

Huh?

That's... not what I—

In the end, you women swap gossip with each other indiscriminately!

Azuma-kun...?

E... excuse me...

It's already begun! The women-run, by-women-for-women court of opinion!

And the defendant is tried in absentia!

I must have made a mistake...

But I just couldn't stop thinking about it!

Aizawa-san has been worried because ...

This is just something I've learned from observation.

No. I don't. Really.

Azuma-kun... are you sure you don't have some kind of traumatic history with girls?

I can't imagine what else would push you to such lengths!

コホン

AHEM!

BA-DUM

I...

I want to...!

...at school...

Oh! Azuma-kun is talking to a girl?

Nozomin~! Hurry up, or I'm gonna hit you!

...she can't bring herself to talk to him.

Why can't I do it at school?

And on top of that, if he finds out I'm jealous of other girls, he'll dislike me for sure!

WORRY

WORRY

I mean, I've never really done anything more than just exchange greetings, have I?

And he looked like he was enjoying himself, talking with that girl...

Ed.: They are not.

I wonder if all men are like this?

I couldn't really...

...express my thoughts clearly.

He's not refusing to talk about it, but he's also not one-sidedly driving his point home.

It looks like he's finished with the topic for now...

He said before that he felt like men and women were from entirely different planets.

Even if we are from different planets...

Azuma-kun...

It certainly feels...

...like he's from a very faraway place.

I think he might be right.

...

...Why?

She looks so depressed. But why?

温暖化ストップ！

GLOOM ずーん

...

Calm down. The reason is probably a simple one.

Judging from her earlier state, it's probably because of...

...me.

BA-DUM ドキドキ

BA-DUM

If it's my fault anyway...

...I'll just have to fix it!

How arrogant of them!

This is that thing girls do where they're like, "Figure it out! You're supposed to know without me telling you!"

I know what this is.

But if it affected her that much, why didn't she say anything to me about it?

もん WORRY

どんより depressed

もん WORRY

Well, fine.

Aizawa-san.

Y-yes?

BA-DUM!

Looks like I didn't need a joke to lighten the mood after all...

Why tell jokes all of a sudden?

What was that all about?

Whatever. Time to dig to the root of the issue.

What cold eyes she has...

"So my neighbors put up a new fence the other day..."

You know, if you're worried about something...

...I'm always here to listen.

"Did they picket out themselves?"

Hm? Am I wrong?

You just seemed sad today.

Huh?

日祝 9:00~12:00

...

...

Ah! Um, uh...

I'm, umm...

All the girls...

CRUSHED

I must have said something that annoyed them.

This happens a lot, actually.

Just today, all the girls in my class ganged up on me...

No, it's fine. I get it.

Now, I'm not trying to make excuses by saying this...

...but I have the bad habit of getting a bit worked up when I talk.

O-oh!

I'm sorry...

Trust me. It wasn't my intention to provoke you with something I said.

What I was saying before was a generalization based on my observations. obviously, there will be individual differences.

I didn't mean to lump you in with that generalization.

Could it be...

...that he...

...was concerned...

...about me...?

第27回 平和台高校 収穫祭

今輝ける青春の芽を

肛門科・ひふ科 よしじま医

診療時間
月火 9:00~5:00
水木 10:00~5:00
金土 9:00~3:00
日祝 9:00~12:00

薬

ドキ BA-DUM

ドキ BA-DUM

ドキ BA-DUM

...

BA-DUM!

Ah?!

くるっ

TURN

I seem to have gotten a bit off track.

Maybe if you could just give me a hint, I could at least clear up any miscon-ceptions.

Anyway, I was thinking...

I want to be friendlier towards you.

Even at school!

...Sorry. It's got nothing to do with you, Azuma-kun.

It's just that something at school kinda got me down.

Oh, is that it?

Yeah.

But I'm feeling better now.

Hm?

The girl I'm on best terms with...

...is you, you know?

None of my conversations with girls at school have lasted more than a few minutes.

They usually just get mad at me.

...!

The train is now arriving on platform one.

DING DING

GATACK GOTOCK

GATACK GOTOCK

WHOOSH

各停 本田木

Oh! The train's here!

See you later, then.

At school!

Yeah.

...
Yeah.

CLACK

7°

HISS

I thought you'd recov-ered...

...but now you're acting odd again.

...I don't buy it.

Huh?

...but now you're acting odd again.

AH!

It's almost as if...

I'm trying to hide this silly smile!

I-I mean...

I'm just so happy!

TWITCH

The doors will now close. Please remain behind the white line.

You're very irritable, and you keep switching between being depressed and being cheerful.

NO.

I understand it's very difficult for you women...

Excuse me...

Might you be on your period?

The issue remains forever unsolved.

The girls ganged up on me again.

Azuma-kun. You've never heard of "tact" in your life, have you?

Why can girls claim PMS with impunity, but when I say it, they get mad?

The rise and fall of a woman's moods remains mysterious.


CHALLENGER
...
Ah ha ha! You really shouldn't say things like that, Azuma-kun!
Aizawa-san laughs a lot when we talk.
Aizawa-san.
What's a mattress's favorite sport?
'Ress-ling.
However, light wordplay is judged rather harshly.
Although, her acting like that did help to calm my nerves.
No, I get it. But just why the hell are you telling bad jokes right now?
Um, I mean, a mat-tress—
What are you talking about?
... Sorry.


PFFT! HA!
Sorry, Mikey.

ep. 4 A Boy's Consultation

園芸部
Gardening Club

告白

*Confessions

OH 03
へいわ台
へいわだい
Heiwadai
平和台高校入口
OH 04
隣野
Tonarino
つぶ貝
Tsubukai

Today in home ec, we made cookies.

I wonder if Azuma-kun will eat them...?

You want to give me these handmade cookies?

Hm?

Thank you, Aizawa-san! They're delicious!

カバッ

URGH

No! There's no way Azuma-kun is the kind of person who'd accept them so easily.

GULP

...

Actually, I have something else to say. Aizawa-san, I...

You want to give me these handmade cookies?

Hm?

Sorry, but I won't be won over with such cheap tactics. Firstly, why is it that women give away things covered in their dirty fingerprints, huh? Not only that, but I look like the bad guy if I refuse them!

Ha ha! I see. "The way to a man's heart is through his stomach," is it?

Hey, Aizawa-san.

ドキーン BA DUM

ばばっ JOLT

A-A-Azuma-kun! You're late!

FLASH

That's it! If I put them in his locker at school...

Is this the female version of marking territory?

Look! Right here!

Illustration: Shut up and eat.

How can I make him accept them, then...?

Like that!

He'll definitely say something like that! That boy's logic is just so twisted!

Who's that?
I think I recognize him...
Um... hello.
Hm?
Azuma, you never said you were friends with Aizawa-san!
WHISPER
Wh— Hey, isn't that Aizawa-san?

Ah... hi.

Oh, I know. I see him and Azuma-kun together a lot.

He said he'd been worried about something lately...

STARE

...so I told him we could talk about it on the way home together.

Um... hi.

Let me introduce you. Aizawa-san, this is Caffeine, a friend of mine.

My name's Takahashi. Nice to meet you.

His nickname is Caffeine because his parents met in a coffee shop.

Um, yeah. If you'll listen, I'd appreciate it.

You did say you wanted a girl's perspective, too, right, Caffeine?

O-of course! If you think I can help, I'll do everything I can!

Azuma wants help from me?!

I'll do my best!

...

Oh! Hey, Aizawa-san! If you're okay with it, why don't we both hear him out?

EXCITED

わくわく

So, what is it you're concerned about?

Well...

I haven't heard yet, either.

It's about my girlfriend...

Aah!

YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?!

It's relationship trouble!

RUMBLE

THOUGH I, TOO, HAVE *NO EXPERIENCE* IN DATING, I HAVE LONG YEARS OF RESEARCH INTO THE MINDSET AND METHODS OF WOMEN!

RUMBLE

COME, CAFFEINE! DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW SHE FEELS? WHERE TO TAKE HER?!

PLEASE UNBURDEN YOURSELF WITH NO RESERVATIONS!

この ミステリー すごーが

This mystery is great.

OKAY, DON'T WORRY!

MAYBE I DON'T HAVE *ANY EXPERIENCE* IN DATING, BUT I'M A GIRL, TOO!

I CAN TOTALLY UNDERSTAND THE FEELINGS OF A LOVE-STRUCK GIRL!

RUMBLE

...she seems to be cheating on me.

Well, the thing is...

You think so?

Ha ha ha

Especially you, Azuma.

I thought you'd say that.

Dump her.

I agree. It's best to break things off.

えりとErina

yuji
I luvvv you!
CU tomorrow!

19:31

This is Takuya(lol)

Read
19:32

She sent me a message meant for someone else.

YOU'RE LAUGHING AT A TIME LIKE THIS?! SHE'S CHEATING ON YOU, YOU KNOW!

C... come on, Azuma-kun! Calm down.

She even tried to cover it up with a cute sticker!

Caught red handed!

Don't sit in the middle of the path! You're in the way.

Is there any chance you might be mistaken, Caffeine-kun?

Well ...

There was this thing yester-day...

Sheesh. I'll get up if anyone comes.

If she was truly pure, she wouldn't cheat!

That's right. Unfortunately, so far, I don't see anything that justifies it.

Yeah... I figured...

I always thought she was so nice... so gentle and pure.

She was always bringing me hand-made gifts and things.

Man, it sucks...

Even though we go to different schools.

Hmph!

Anyway, the issue is that you don't actually want to break up with her, right?

In that case, why don't we think about what might've caused her feelings for you to waver?

Let's try to figure that out first.

First off, "handmade" is the signature of overly arrogant girls.

Don't you agree, Aizawa-san?

I DON'T AGREE! I THINK IT'S A SIGN OF KINDNESS FROM A GENTLE SOUL!

WHAT'S THAT LOOK FOR?!

GLARE

Ah!

Are you saying this is Caffeine's fault?!

What reason, huh...

No, I'm not!

But if he still likes her, we have to know!

Sure, that's true some of the time...

Well, that's understandable. You're busy with school clubs and other things.

...but mostly, her texts are just really hard to reply to, you know?

While I'm thinking about how to reply, I'll fall asleep.

I ate strawberries with Mika and Yuriri ey were super yum!

It's a diary entry!

Totally a diary entry!

Well, recently...

She kept getting mad at me for not answering her texts.

Yes, you're in the wrong here.

You should reply with "Sounds fun!" or "How was it?" or something like that.

H...hey, hold up a second.

She'll just talk about how she went someplace with somebody and did some other thing...

Never anybody I know.

Is it really so bad that I don't reply?

Uh, here's another thing.

I never really get what she's trying to ask.

Sometimes when we meet up, she'll ask, "What are you thinking about?" or "What do you think of me?"

What's the point of such a conversation?

NOTHING, REALLY.

I see...

She's just sharing the things she did or enjoyed that day.

All you need to do is acknowledge that.

She wants an affirmation of the love you share.

WHOA! WHOA, WHOA, WHOA!

If you love her, you should be able to respond instantly.

It's not hard if you just put yourself in the other person's shoes for a second.

If you can't do something that simple, she's going to assume you're not properly considering her feelings.

How's he supposed to know what she's thinking?!

Are men supposed to be psychic?

That's beyond unreasonable.

OKAY, FINE! THEN WHY IS IT THAT BOYS PROPERLY COMMUNICATE **BEFORE** YOU'RE DATING...

...BUT ONCE YOU START, THEY STOP?! THIS IS WHY GIRLS START TO FEEL SO UNCERTAIN!

It's a bait-and-switch!

YOU HAVEN'T DATED ANYONE, EITHER!

HERE WE GO! WHY IS IT YOU WOMEN HAVE TO PUT US THROUGH TESTS AND TRIALS?!

IT SEEMS LIKE AS SOON AS YOU START DATING, THE MAN IS STUCK WALKING A TIGHTROPE THE ENTIRE TIME!

YOU'RE ONE TO TALK! YOU'VE NEVER EVEN DATED ANYONE!

And any mistake spells certain doom!

You two don't need to get so worked up.

Hey.

Hey, now ...

It's fine.

My bad.

... Yeah.

Sorry about that.

Empathize with her all you want, but...

That's... true.

...it's obvious you should break things off with that "handmade gifts" girl.

チーン
DING

I still don't like it.

Even if we assume by some miracle Caffeine is at fault here, that doesn't excuse his girlfriend's behavior.

WELL, WHY ARE YOU SO PREJUDICED AGAINST WOMEN?!

WHAT?! WELL, THEN, HOW ABOUT YOU STOP TRYING TO MAKE MEN YOUR PUPPETS?!

I don't get why you're so touchy about this!

WHAT THE HELL DO "HANDMADE GIFTS" HAVE TO DO WITH ANYTHING?!

SNAP

JUMP

ビクッ

AND WE MEN AREN'T JUST GOING TO DO WHAT YOU TELL US TO DO ALL THE TIME!

NOT ALL WOMEN ARE HOW YOU ASSUME THEM TO BE!

Hey, cool it!

Hey, now!

And you, Aizawa-san.

You gotta calm down a bit.

Though maybe you're right about my girlfriend.

Azuma.

You shouldn't jump to conclusions like that, man.

...but it's no good fighting about it.

I'm happy you're both trying so hard to help me out...

You're so nice, easygoing, broad-minded...

Caffeine-kun...

I think your girlfriend is in the wrong.

Well, yeah, she's the one cheating on me...

I sup-
pose...

...Aizawa-
san isn't
at fault
here, either.

Although I do still think your logic of "the man is always at fault" is incorrect.

No,
no...

FIDGET

もじ

FIDGET

もじ

I'm sorry
I got
angry at
you.

...

How
nice.

Azuma-
kun...

Caffeine-kun, you're a good person.

Yeah, you're a nice guy.

Since you're so nice,

I'm sure your girlfriend will choose you in the end!

There it is... Again with the "nice guy."

I hear that...

...an awful lot.

Well, I dunno.

I kinda feel screwed either way.

Ha ha ha

That's true. Neither outcome is great.

I wouldn't myself, but you still like her, right?

In that case...

Why don't you muster up all your sincere feelings...

...and try your hardest to win her back?

...

...

Yeah.

I do still love her.

...

Yeah.

...

Best of luck to you!

Thanks. I'm feeling a lot better now.

I'm going to try having a talk with her.

Maybe there were some misunder-standings we can clear up.

I'm sorry I couldn't help much.

I wouldn't say that.

Anyway, I had fun.

I am kinda surprised Azuma has a female friend, though.

Oh, sorry. Got a text.

Sorry! ♡♡👊
I'm dating Ryuji now, so I'm breaking up with you!♡♡
Let's hang out sometime? ﾍﾍﾍ↗↗🐻♡♡
Erina ✧✧💌

Looks like he won out.

...

LOOKS LIKE SHE DUMPED ME.

WHAT?!

REALLY?!

へいわ台

すー

CRUSHED

The train is now arriving on platform one.

WHOOSH

GOTOCK GATACK ゴトン ゴトン

Do you think ...

he's going to be okay?

...I think that's a bit of an overreaction.

If it were me, I'd lose all hope and never even meet the eyes of a woman again.

I see... You're dating Ryuji now, are you? When did that happen? And, uh, who is Ryuji, anyway?

CRUUU

すー...

SHED

Well...

I wouldn't say he'll be okay, per se. He'll probably be a shambling corpse for a while.

Huh?

It'll be fine.

He'll find a better girl eventually.

Huh?

Someone like you.

Someone honest like you, and kind, and...

I mean-

...

Ah-

I-

No-

Sh"

SMACK

Ow!

Whatever. It still makes me happy.

C'mon, Caffeine! Chin up!

Let's go home and throw a party.

Let's celebrate your newfound freedom from the "handmade goods" witch.

Oh, right, my cookies!

Maybe I should give them to him directly, after all?

C'mon, man! Gimme a break!

Shut up.

Let's get you home.

へいわ台

Never again will she deceive you like this.

Are you still on about that?

Her handmade cookies were to die for, man!

And after club meetings, they'd always be waiting in my locker.

Why would you put food in a shoe locker?

THAT'S NOT SOMETHING A SENSIBLE PERSON WOULD DO.

BRI IL
RI IL
RING IL
IL
IL

You think so?

Yo!

Morn-in'!

Morning!

Hey!

Hey.

Why're you two together?

Oh, I stayed at Azuma's last night.

Man! Invite me next time!

Hey, get a load of this.

Yesterday, I talked to Aizawa-san!

WHOA, REALLY?!

HOW'D IT GO, MAN?

Man, she is super hot!

And turns out, she's really nice, too!

I can't believe it! You gotta introduce me!

CRACK

GROGGY

They're handmade. Please eat them at your earliest opportunity. -Aizawa-

Before he knew it, he'd already wounded a young girl's heart.

Afterwards, Azuma mustered up all his sincere feelings and apologized.

Oh, man! Cookies in your locker!

Nice one, Shiro! You've wanted that since elementary school, right?

Who're they from?

Ah ha ha!

Wh– Why should I?!

Oh, so they were for you, Azuma?

You'd better apologize to her.

ドキ BA-DUM BA-DUM


Sincere feelings
She received a letter written entirely in calligraphy.
...I can't even read this.
此度の事誠に
謝りたく候
*Upon this occasion, with truth and veracity do I wish to convey my sincere regret—

A man with no sense of the romantic

First of all, why are you even sending texts that can't be answered with a simple yes or no?

DERAILED

How's he supposed to know what she's thinking?!

That's beyond unreasonable. Are men supposed to be psychic?

During the argument about texting ...

It's not hard if you just put yourself in the other person's shoes for a second.





For a moment, Aizawa's head was full of other thoughts.

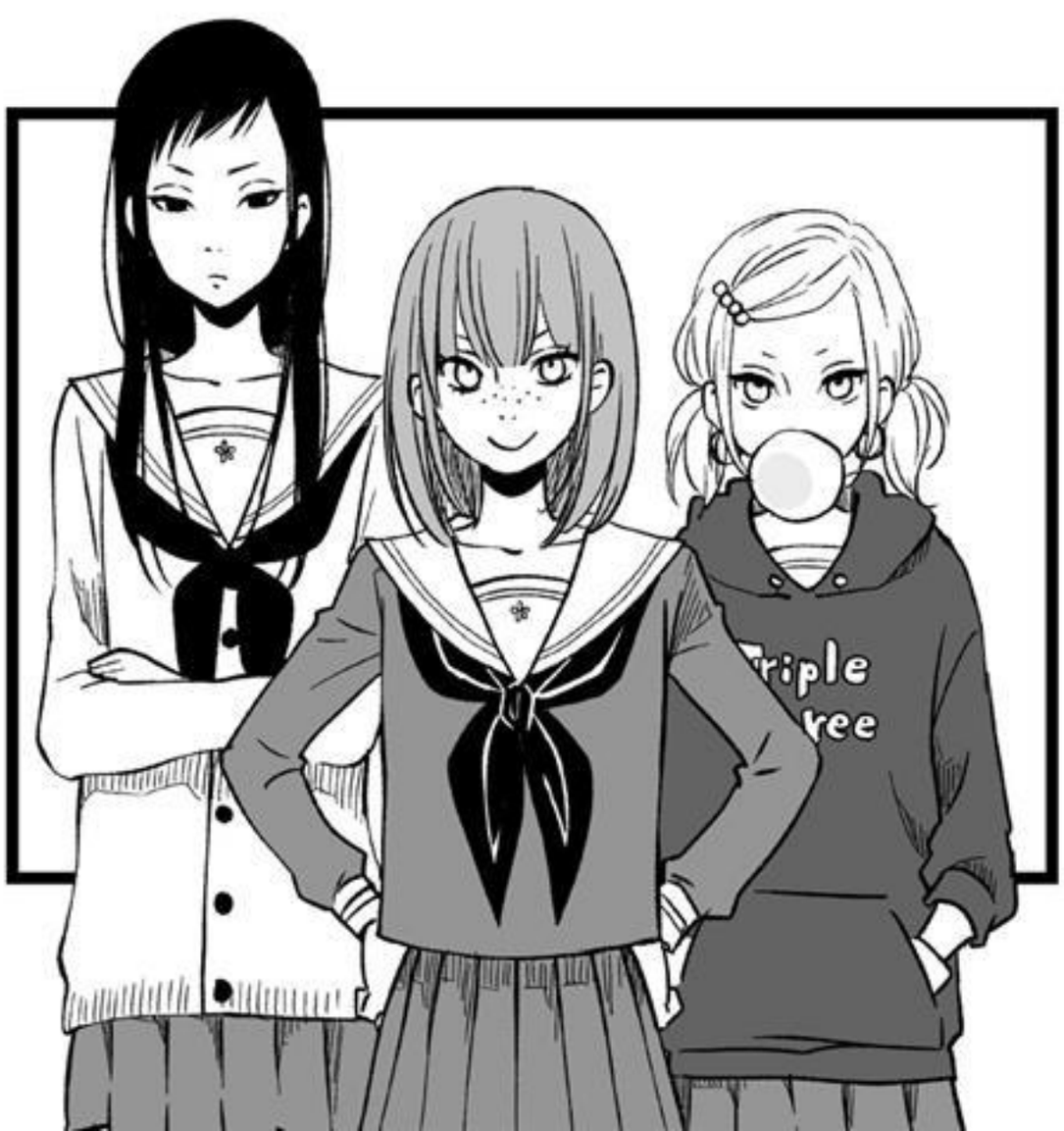
...so what's going on now? Why do we keep meeting here?!

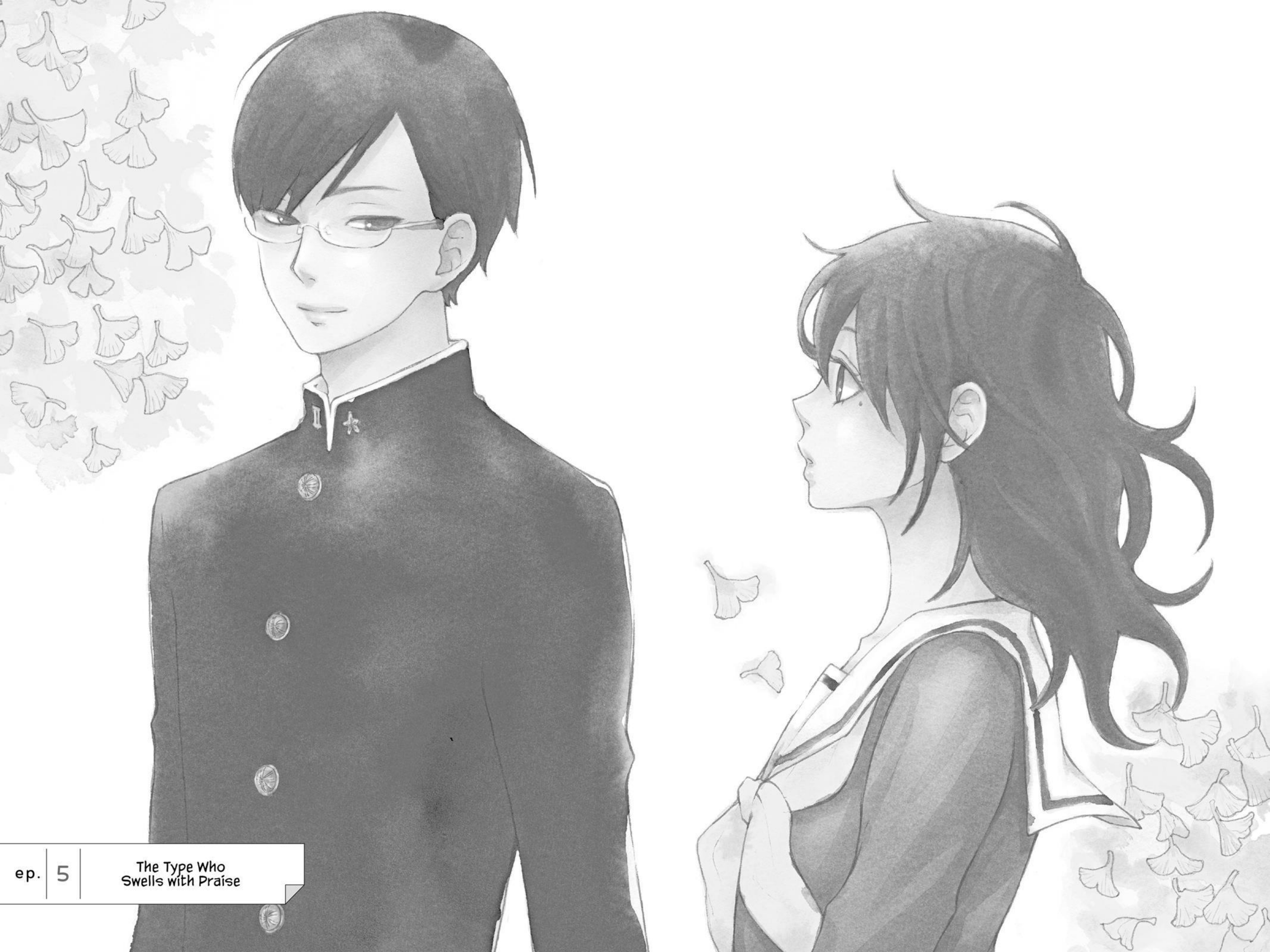
Well, okay, I'm just coming here on my own...

Obviously, you aren't trying to consider my feelings!

WORRY

WORRY


Triple
Tree



ep. 5 The Type Who Swells with Praise



キーンコーン
DING DONG

Azuma-kun is usually slow in the morning.

Each morning, he arrives at class with less than five minutes to spare.

Because he stays up late, he sleeps in late, as well.

Yet he is never late to class.

2-4

Hee hee hee...

You seri-ous?

CHATTER ザワ

You do your English homework?

Duh. Of course not.

Mornin'!

Yo, Azuma!

Morn-ing.

CHATTER ザワ

GO TO
EST

Azuma!

Good morning.

Would you let me through?

Hmph!

Hold up a sec. What's with the attitude?

All I did was ask you to let me through.

Hmph!

TURN

PSH!!

PSH!!

PSH!!

Hm?

If I knew, I wouldn't need to ask.

And anyway, you were the ones blocking the doorway.

Why should we let you in with your attitude?

Ask yourself that, Azuma!

I AIN'T EVEN TALKIN' ABOUT THAT!

Huh?!

SCREECH

Why do you always let your emotions control you? Why not calmly explain using logic and reason and—

Okay, then what's with all of this?

Having another fight with the girls, Azuma?

JUST SHUT UP, YOU DUMBASS!

Morning.

SCREECH

YOU BASTARD! DON'T GO GETTING A BIG HEAD JUST 'CAUSE YOU'RE KINDA CUTE!

Mornin'.

...anyway, that's what happened this morning.

OH 03 へいわ台
へいわだい
Heiwadai
平和台高校入口
隣野
Tonarino
つぶ貝
Tsubukai

They're pretty much always mad at me, but...

...this morning, they were just being unreason-able.

梅原大吾……

勝ち続ける意志力

I still don't know what I did wrong!

And why are the girls in my class so crass?

Why is it that girls get mad and then refuse to give a reason why?

…

勝ち続ける意志力

The Will to Keep Winning by Daigo Umehara

I saw the whole thing.

Ah! Azuma-kun's having fun with the girls again!

Nozomin~! Are you spying on another class again? Let's go!

ビッキ

BA-DUM BA-DUM

By the way, do you have a head-ache?

Oh, no, I was just tossing in my sleep. It's nothing.

Azuma-kun... I think...

...the reactions of the people around me...

...are a reflection of my own words and behavior.

Look! We got matching phone cases!

Yay!

They're cute, don't you think?

Hey, Azuma!

...they tried to talk with you, right?

For example, yester-day...

CLANG CLANG CLANG CLANG

You're saying I provoked them into doing that?

A woman's anger isn't about individual points on a line. It's the line itself.

No...

...not really.

What about what happened afterwards?

They asked for my opinion, and I gave it.

What was wrong with that?

You should say something nice once in a while!

BZZT

BZZT

You really don't get girls, do you?

Me? Say something nice about you?

Why would I do that?

I witnessed the very instant their opinion of you hit rock bottom.

Okay, but they just suddenly asked me to say something nice.

What was I supposed to say?

Actually, that aside, I'm surprised you saw all that.

Could you tell me from where, when, and for what reason you overheard such events?

Again, Nozomin? I'm gonna drag you away!

It's a coinci-dence.

Still, that puts things into perspective. I guess they did have a reason to be angry.

And here I thought they just hated me.

That—

That's not true!

You're very popular with women!

...not that I'm gonna tell you that!

It'd be trouble for me if you realized!

HMPH!

I really don't want him to see me like this...

...but I can't give up talking with him!

If that's true, it at least gives me something to work with.

第42回

boing

CLAP

And here I am, too anxious to even talk to him at school...

Plus, today,

I just can't get rid of this bedhead!

90°

BOING

第42回 和牛うまい

Tell me, Aizawa-san.

What do you think I should do?

収穫祭

I don't want a pointless conflict.

I didn't mean for them to have to deal with any uncomfortable feelings.

Be kind?

the most important thing is to treat her kindly.

If you want to make friends with a girl,

OH!

W-WELL...

It's easy. Whenever a girl asks for your opinion...

...just say, "Looks good to me," "It really suits you," or "That's cute!"

There it is! Empathy again!

I... I see.

What matters is that you're empathetic to how the other person feels.

Whether it's true or not isn't important.

Is that... really kindness?

Just where is he getting all this stuff from?!

I... I think the way you responded rather than what you said was probably not all that great.

But girls always say, "Don't say things if you don't really mean it!" and "If you don't know, shut up!" and then get mad at me!

I-IT'S...

IT'S...!

Azuma-kun~! Sorry I'm late! Were you waiting long?

Look! I made pickles yesterday! Aren't they cute?

Okay. Let's... try to fix it.

Are you sure?

Okay. Let's practice a bit.

Good morning, Azuma-kun. ♡ I had a lot of fun yesterday. ♡

By the way, I did my hair a bit differently today. What do you think?

IT'S LONG!

IT'S!

UM!

Wrong!

You have to be nice by reflex!

When a girl says, "Isn't it cute?" it's just like a set phrase.

Like "How are you?"

Don't think before replying!

S...sorry. It just came so suddenly ...

Let's try another.

Aren't your demands getting a little unreason-able?!

Speak from the heart! Something that will make her happy!

What's the point in stating the obvious?!

That's not going to satisfy anyone!

Did something happen yesterday?

Plus, I'm a little curious about these scenarios...

"Worse"...

Is it really that hard?

You're... you're even worse than I imagined!

You don't have to put so much thought into this...

B...but, aren't you being rude to the other person if you say something without considering it first?

It's so thought-less!

Look. It's not like you aren't considering what you're saying.

Everyone gets happy when people say nice things about them.

Is it really that wrong ...

...to want to make someone happy?

...

Okay. Fine.

You just want an affirma-tion, right?

Your pickles look very tasty.

I had fun yesterday, too.

Oh, you changed your hair? It looks nice on you.

...

That's it!

That's it exactly!

See? You can do it if you try!

Great! You did it, Azuma-kun!

She doesn't need to praise me that much...

BLUSH

I love the light blue color!

Yes! That's it!

Isn't this coin purse cute?

I get it now!

I get it!

I changed how I parted my hair today...

I ate some eventually, though!

Splendid!

I didn't eat candy all day yesterday!

It really suits you!

Look! I bought a new bag!

You look nice!

A little candy is good for you!

It's pure logic!

It's nothing if not sensible!

Eeee!

GREAT!

YOU'VE GOT IT DOWN, AZUMA-KUN!

NOW YOU'RE CERTAIN TO BE POPULAR WITH THE GIRLS!

That's silly.

There's no girl in the world more charming than you, Aizawa-san.

BLUSH

What?

What?

...

What are you so embarrassed about?

WH-
WH-
WHAT—

S-
sorry...

...

I think... you might have overdone it a little with that one.

Y-YEAH, I SUPPOSE SO.

WHOOSH 110

The train will soon be arriving on platform one.

GATACK GOTOCK ゴトン ゴトン

What time is it again?

...

ドキ BA-DUM ドキ BA-DUM

Aah... that really surprised me.

It was supposed to be practice, but then he said my name...

L-later, then.

しゃく AWKWARD

Y-yeah.

...

Azuma-kun!

You know...

The reason the girls get mad at you...

It's because...

...they all love you, Azuma-kun.

You should...

...respond to their feelings.

...

...thank you.

...

I see.

It's true.

Kind words make people happy.

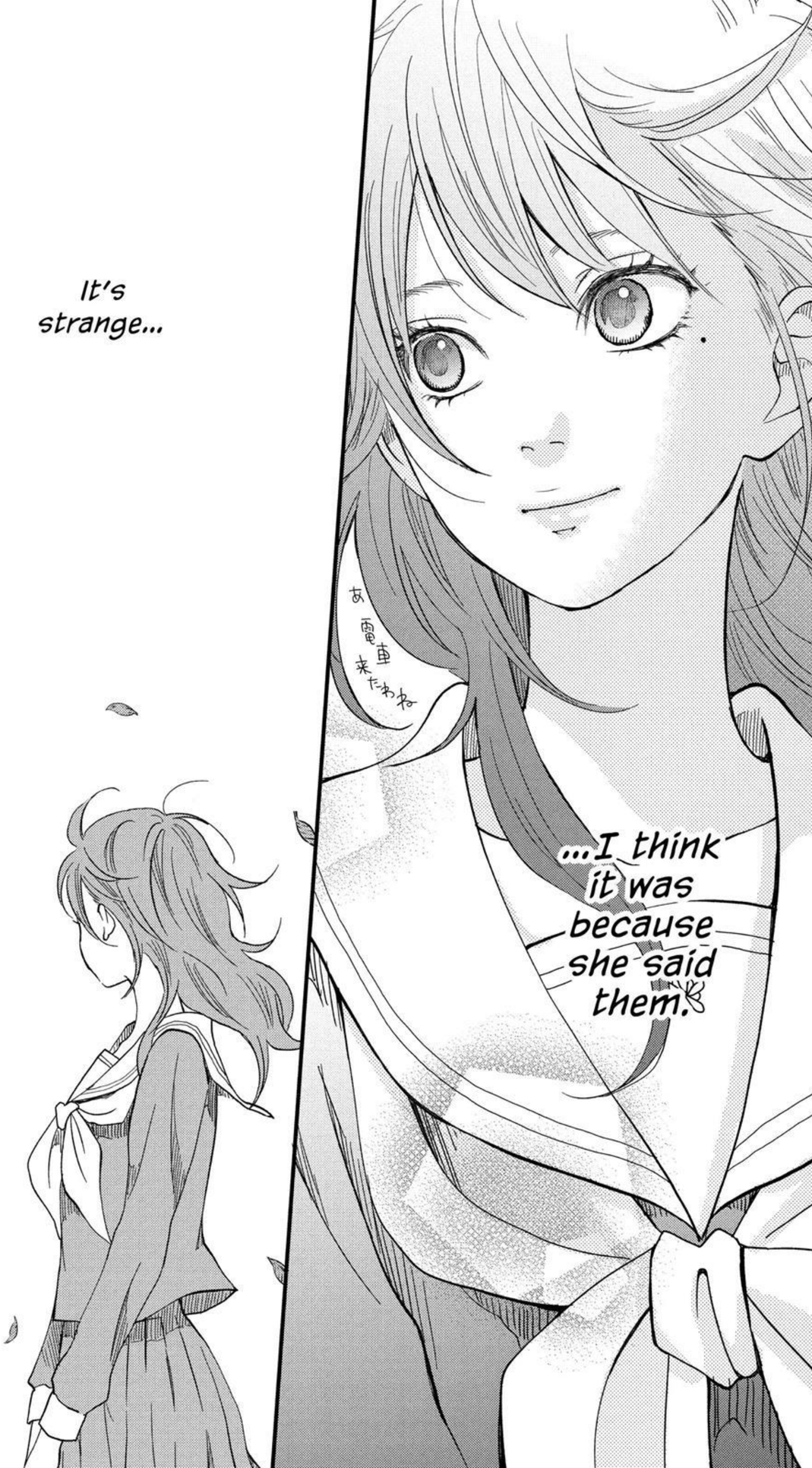
But in my case...

...can penetrate my heart so easily?

Why is it that her words...

It's strange...





Hm?

Ha ha ha...

You were right.

You really were tossing in your sleep.

Totally forgot

Hm?

The doors are now opening. Please remain behind the white line.

N–

I MEANT, IT'S CUTE!

NO, WAIT!

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

...

DON'T SAY THINGS YOU DON'T MEAN!

Being emotionally moved has its downsides.

へいわ台駅
Heiwadai Station

Now that I think of it...

Didn't she say she was reading a comic?

I wonder what...

How-ever...

I said something nice, but she still got mad ...

In the end, women are difficult.

So says Azuma.

GATACK
GOTOCK
GATACK
ゴトッ！ゴッ
ゴトッ！ゴッ

Little by little...

...he continues to mature.

I'll ask her tomor-row.

At school.

GATACK GOTOCK

GATACK GOTOCK

In the end, it worked.

You're really killin' it today, Azuma!

ぎゃはっはっはっは

Like, totally!

Omigod, what's this? A new snack?

It's soooo good!

...Azuma tried to empathize with the girls to the utmost.

The next day...

A continuation of their parting dialogue



MORE OF THE NEXT DAY

2-3

I wanted to talk to her...

...but I can never seem to find Aizawa-san at school.

I wonder who Azuma-kun is looking for?

She's right behind you.

ANXIOUS

Huh? Aizawa-san?

Well, I see her all the time.

what, really?!

ep. 6

Getting Someone out of your League is Surprisingly Easy

CHATTER

CHATTER

Voice. Mannerisms. Speech patterns. Looks.

Within five seconds of meeting someone, you either fall for them, or you don't.

Tamaki-kun!

Tama! ♡

Tamaki! ♡

...are more or less beyond anyone's control.

The qualities people possess that make others fall in love with them...

It's an irresistible instinct.

2-2

*Azuma-kun info sheet
Class 4 ♡ schedule

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

Oh, no!

I accidentally filled in my own schedule ...

	Tu	We	Th	Fr
	Math	Lit	Eng	HR
	Bio	Free	Math	Hist
		Lit		Hist
	Lit	Eng	Math	Bio
	Math			

Next up is what I look forward to the most, something that only comes around twice a week.

It's Azuma-kun's—class four's—physical education class!

They're doing judo today!

I know a great vantage point on the second-story walkway...!

H... Hamarin! We have music next! Let's go!

CLATTER

Hm?

Okay.

*Mix-and-Match Month! Top 10 Tricks for Love-Stealing Outfits!

Oh!

BUMP

I'm sorry! I wasn't paying attention!

Oh, no.

Don't worry.

It's fine, really.

You don't need to apologize, Aizawa-san.

He was really nervous.

Am I really that unapproachable?

It really feels like other people in class keep me at a distance...

Excuse me...

Though I buy good food if it spoils before I eat, I'm a poor person.

by Kayo Tenno of Kochi Prefecture

I turn a[ll] you. From your luscious, flowing hair comes a sweet fragrance.

by Yuu Sakuma of Tokyo

by Emi Su[zu]ki of [To]kyo



Trembling Love!

I love you!

Right now...

...I'm the happiest!

メイプル

ち"

A sweet, trembling love could happen anytime!

*Maple

But the author is being wishy-washy.

If it were up to me, Nonomi would like not just the male lead, but also background characters boy A and boy B, and on top of that, boy C and boy D would themselves be in love with Nonomi!

That would be sure to sell millions!

The new characters should be involved, too. You have to make a strong impact!

Ed.: This is just Azuma-kun's opinion.

Wow... This new character, Miss Gachiko Yumemi, is great.

CLAP

THROB キュン

The main character, Nonomi, is really good, too.

I'll give them my impressions tomorrow.

RUSTLE

They may have forced me to read it, but it was good.

The train has arrived on platform one.

BRILLING

Well, whatever. I'll head home.

Azuma-kun!

She's usually here long before now...

*Today's Haiku

今月の俳句

穫祭

Oh, I'm sorry. Were you about to leave?

... No.

It's fine. I can always catch the next one.

NOD

Nice to meet you... I'm Tamaki.

This is Tamaki-kun from class one.

He talked to me at school today.

Know of him, you say...

Do you know of him, Azuma-kun?

The girls in my class are always screaming about him!

Nickname: The King!

HE'S KAZUOMI TAMAKI OF YEAR TWO, CLASS ONE, A.K.A. THE "HAREM CLASS," ISN'T HE?!

Tamaki-kun told me...

...he really wanted to be friends with you, Azuma-kun.

HUH?!

That makes me happy.

Oh... so you know who I am.

今月の俳句

In the confusion, she nabbed the seat next to Azuma-kun.

...I see.

So, Tamaki ...

What does the most popular boy in school need from me?

Well... "need" is a strong word.

I was just wondering if we could chat a bit.

Chat?

Yeah. Like you said,

I'm basically "Mr. Heiwadai," right?

へいわ台

I don't get it...

When I'm next to them, all I want to do is run away.

Aah!

I'm sitting way closer to him than normal!

ドドドドドキドキ BA-DUM BA-DUM

...

Um... uh... I'm sorry. Didn't you know?

I'm... really self-conscious, you see.

BLUSH

...lately, I've had some doubts.

Well, anyway... everyone treats me nicely,

which makes me happy, but...

Is it really okay for me to be so halfhearted about things?

Ah! He's really eating them!

Yes! So cute!

MUNCH

Tamaki~! I brought snacks!

MUNCH

MUNCH

DOTING

DOTING

Even if I don't do anything, people dote on me.

Well... the reason we get surrounded is different ...

He's so innocent...

This kid is so innocent...

It's tough being popular...

So I worked up my courage and asked Aizawa-san.

I thought we might be able to talk out here...

Anyway, we're both always surrounded by a crowd of girls, so there's not much opportunity for us to talk.

Well... the situation is...

Right now, even if I don't do anything, I get showered with attention.

I've never been able to assert myself.

...I don't get it.

If you think you don't deserve it, why not get up and leave?

And what does that have to do with me?

So, I happened to see you at school.

And I saw how firmly you held to your own opinions, and I was really impressed.

You're so wishy-washy!

If I can, I'd really like to live as the real me...

But to be honest, I don't know who the "real me" is.

I think... if the girls were so mean to me, I wouldn't be able to survive.

I mean... I'm having a hard time surviving, too, you know!

I've been thinking lately...

But...

I think in your case...

The people around you love you, warts and all.

I...

I want to know the real me.

Then I'm sure there will be lots of people who will like me for me.

I see. It seems like you've never been through any serious hardships.

Nothing other people didn't deal with for you, at least.

Which, um, brings me to my point.

I thought if I had you by my side, I'd be able to capture that special something. That's why I'm here.

It's true that the only time you can really profit from looks alone is while you're young.

A... Aizawa-san?!

You want to switch with him.

Right, Tamaki-kun?

Aizawa-san?

今月の



Thank you! I think this is the first time a girl has said anything even vaguely confrontational to me!

You can do it! I'm cheering for you, Tamaki-kun!

...

今月の

Right?

That's exactly right! I think so, too!

What are they so cheerful about?

It's very admirable that you're using this opportunity to reflect on yourself!

People are complex.

But, realistically...

MUMBLE ボソボソ

Girls only go for guys with good looks.

...an older relative of mine who was in high school at the time told me this:

Once, when I was in elementary school...

"...as long as I like how he looks, it's okay."

"No matter how shitty he is on the inside..."

At around the same time, an older neighbor I was friends with...

...had a bad breakup with his girlfriend.

The reason she gave was... his looks "just weren't there."

ぎゃあ...
MURMUR

Even though...

...he was such a nice guy...!

MURMUR
ざわ...

He... he taught me how to make *take-tombo*, bamboo helicopters!

I feel like the gates to Azuma-kun's heart are finally opening...!

Just... just take it easy, Azuma-kun!

Your relative was just young and inexperienced!

I'm sure that, as she grew older, she came to realize there are more important things than looks!

MORE IMPORTANT THINGS? LIKE WHAT?! NAME ONE!

きっ
SNAP

BANK BALANCE.

What are you saying? It's very important!

DANG チッ

Money, huh...

Aw, man... I only have about 50 yen* in my wallet right now...

*Approximately 50 cents

Wait a minute... Wouldn't doing that immediately wipe out a bank balance?

IS THAT REALLY SO BAD?!

I WANNA RACK UP A HUNDRED MILLION YEN DEBT!

I WANNA THROW MONEY AROUND LIKE A CELEBRITY!

It's dog shampoo, though...

I see... that must be why girls always compliment the scent of my shampoo.

サラッ SWISH

A-another thing is that, when girls talk about looks, we don't just mean the shape of your face and body!

There's also things like your fashion sense, hairstyle, general hygiene...

There's one last thing that women find even more important when they're choosing a guy.

Wait a minute!

What? Now you have another hurdle for us to clear?!

Damn it! So it's down to looks and money.

How excessively blunt of you!

KINDNESS.

Can you girls even tell when a guy is being nice to you?!

BZZT!

今月の雑

BZZT!

WHAT A LIAR! NICE GUYS ALWAYS GET DUMPED IN THE END!

Okay. Okay. I get what you're saying.

IF THAT WERE TRUE, WHAT ABOUT CAFFEINE? WHAT ABOUT MY NEIGHBOR?!

Yeah. I agree.

The real goal with someone you love is a trusting relationship built on mutual love, right?

You can't do that with a cold-hearted person.

While it's true that a girl probably isn't going to love you just because you're kind...

...that doesn't mean kindness isn't important.

You really are a good kid, Aizawa-san.

Oh! The train is already here.

The train is now arriving. Please wait behind the white line.

It's obviously true.

Well... when you put it that way...

S... so...

What do boys look for in a girl?

Maybe I'll learn what Azuma-kun likes...!

What we like? Hmm...

Oh, were you not listening, Azuma-kun?

I said Aizawa-san is a good person!

Shut up!

I heard you the first time!

Wanna ride together?

Oh, are you headed into the city?

...

Sure.

FACE, BOOBS, AND BODY.

…

You're SCUM!

How dare you accuse women of being shallow for caring about looks…

…when you yourself view women like that!

It's not like we can help it.

Shh! Quiet, Tamaki!

ILB ILB IL

Visual stim-uli...

I'M SORRY!

BUT NO MATTER WHAT, VISUAL STIMULI HAVE A LARGE IMPACT ON OUR IMPRESSIONS!

LOOK! THAT'S NOT IT!

WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT WHAT'S INSIDE MATTERS, TOO!

ゴゴゴ RUMBLE

ILI'ING

ALSO, EVEN IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT LOOKS, A MAN'S STRIKE ZONE IS GONNA BE PRETTY LARGE...

SO NOW YOU'RE SAYING JUST ANYBODY WILL DO?!

AZUMA-KUN!

IT'S TERRIBLE!

KN!

CRASH

LOOK AT THAT!

What are you doing in there?

Aizawa-san?

*The Secret Garden

ざわ
MURMUR
ざわ
MURMUR
Aah!
H...HEY... WHAT HAPPENED TO TAMAKI'S HAIR?!
What happened to my Tamaki?!
Thanks for yester-day.
...so I decided to start by changing my look.
You said that appearance holds the most influence...
Oh!
Hello, you two.

That's all. See you later!

Oh, and Azuma... I'll bring that female teacher thing we talked about on the train next time.

S... SURE. THANKS.

Really well?

I think this suits me really well.

It really feels like I've taken the first step towards discovering myself.

...I think he might've gone too far.

My love is being tested...!

our Tamaki...!

I'M GONNA STICK WITH THIS FOR A WHILE.

HEY! TAMAKI! WE WERE SUPPOSED TO HANG OUT WITH THE OTOWA GIRLS TODAY!

WHAT'S WITH THAT HAIR?! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE OUR GIRL BEACON!

WELL... IF **HE** LIKES IT, WHO CARES?

Oh, no... I feel like we just did major damage to our school...

Their conversation surrounded the academy's prince and his somewhat strange hairstyle...

Tamaki! Aah! Aah!

Azuma-kun was looking for me?

Oh, right.

You said something like that before.

That I was hard to talk to here.

When?!

Now that I think about it...

...it's been a while since we talked at school.

Whenever I think about talking to you here, I can't ever track you down.

That's... that's true. It's been a while.

BLUSH

I just get so nervous at school...

...and you're always surrounded by other people...

WHOOSH

Well, then...

How about...

From tomorrow onwards...

...I'll eat lunch out here.

And if you like, you can come talk to me anytime.

WHOA,

WHOA,

WHOA!

ザワザワ
MURMUR

ザワ
MURMUR

Why's that hottie Aizawa...

...chatting so pleasantly with Azuma of all people?!

Our Precious Conver-sations *continues!*

The school life chapters begin now!

To be continued in volume two!

How selfish can you be?!

You spoiled brat!

THUMP

スタ

THUMP

スタ

NAH.

C'mon, Tamaki!

Go back to the old you!

While folding Azuma's handkerchief, Aizawa-san pretends to be his girlfriend.

The scenario: While listening to the troubles of a friend, the housewife sits beside her husband and folds laundry.



HAREM KING

GATACK GOTOCK
GATACK GOTOCK

Are we being hit on by girls from another school?!

Aah!

Aah!

Hey! You're pretty cool!

On the train going home ...

WHAAAA?!

Let's exchange Line names!

You think so? You're pretty cute, too!

Whoa! I can't believe that worked! Heh heh heh!

thump thump thump thump

I can't believe you said that so easily...!

See you later!

Tamaki! Think for yourself when you speak!

Whenever I'm with male friends, I always get told to say things like that!

So we can all benefit!

Oh, should I not?

The reason he's popular with both sexes.

I picked up that S girl for you!

Great! They took the bait!

You're free next Saturday afternoon... Is a four-on-four good with you?

Chips

His manager →

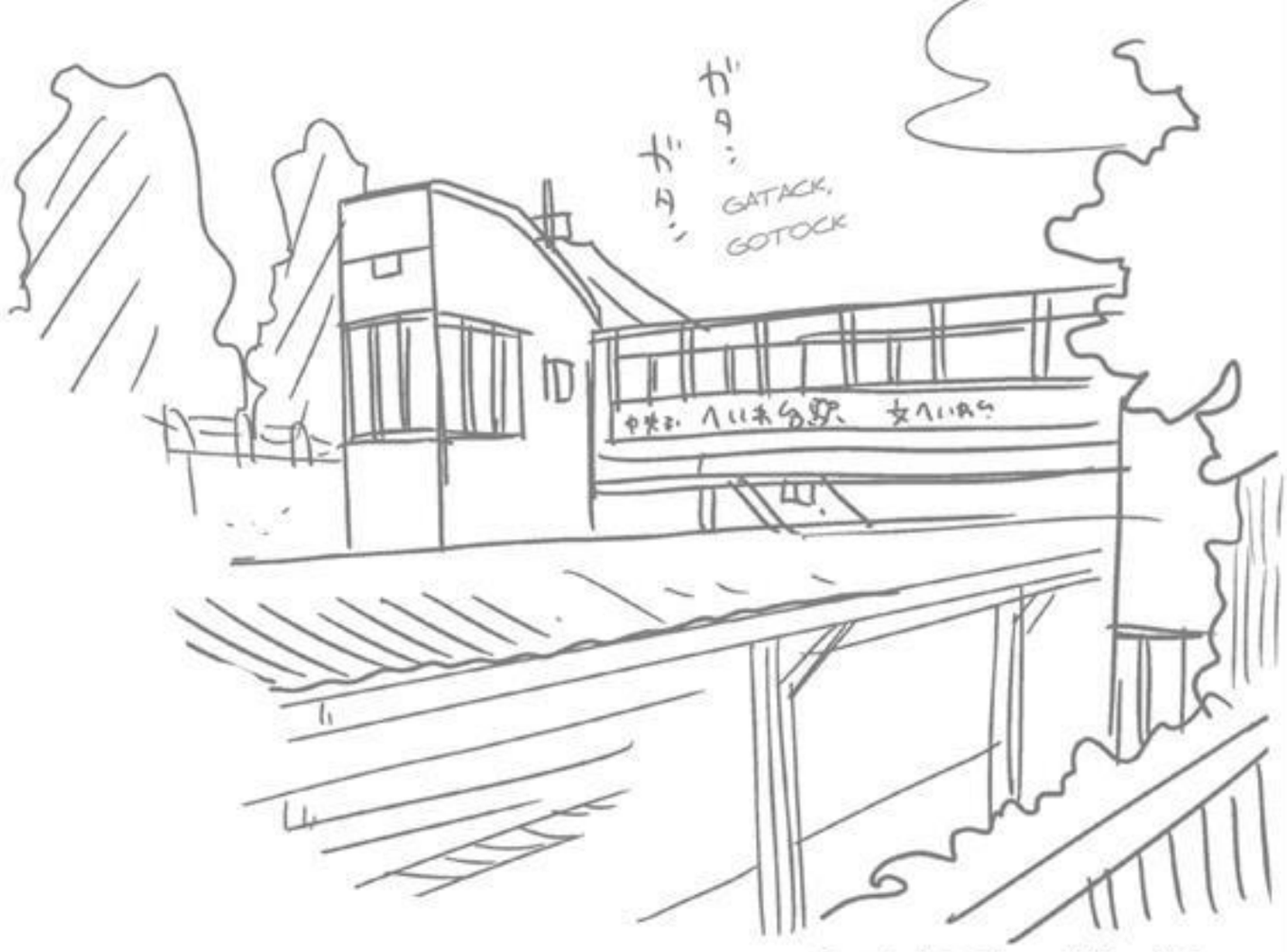
Afterword

Thank you very much for purchasing
Our Precious Conversations, volume one!

While this is a comic with a lot of text, I hope you can read and enjoy it at a nice, leisurely pace.

The station where Azuma-kun and Aizawa-san converse, Heiwadai Station, is based on Sanguubashi Station on the Odakyu line. I really like unique places bursting with local flavor.

I took a ton of reference photos, but I don't know if Heiwadai Station will even make an appearance in volume two, so it might have been a waste.



*Central Railway, Heiwadai Station, Into Heiwadai

Heiwadai High School notes



The class that Tamaki lords over as king. For some reason, both the boys and the girls treat him well.



?



Because the girls have overwhelmingly strong personalities, it's a female-dominated class. The boys (especially Azuma) are tyrannized every day.



I hope we can meet again in volume two!

volume 2



In the next volume of Our Precious Conversations...

SIGH

...so, the time has come.

EXCHANGING PROMISES.

Hey, Azuma-kun...

Do you think, in volume two, our relationship might progress a little more?

...you say, "But you promised!"

AND INSTANTLY, I'M THE BAD GUY!

BA-DUM!

Th-that wasn't what I meant!

No, I get how you women operate.

At first, you want to politely pretend to ask for advice in order to get close...

...until, when I let down my guard...

I'm more than happy with how close we've grown already!

As for what I will or won't do in volume two...

...I refuse to make any promises!

I DON'T THINK WE NEED TO GIVE WEIRD SPOILERS OR INTRODUCE A NEW RIVAL CHARACTER OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT!

I MEAN ...

...

AH, NO...

NOT THAT!

WHAT?

WHOA, WHOA, WHOA!

MURMUR

MURMUR

Hey! I thought their development was already over!

NOW THEN...

What will happen when the school-focused volume two introduces new characters?!

Volume two is our chance to shine!

OUR Precious CONVERSATIONS ②

Our Precious Conversations 1

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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OUR Precious

CONVERSATIONS

2

ROBICO

Our Precious Conversations

2

Presented by Robico

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character



Shiro Azuma

Asked out by Aizawa-san, who's in the same school year. The two of them grew close... or so he thinks?



Nozomi Aizawa

A second-year high-school student. She's long harbored an unrequited love for Azuma-kun, and finally confessed... kind of?



And many others



Kazuomi Tamaki

The most popular boy in school. He talked out his worries with the other two, and as a result... got a haircut.

story

Nozomi Aizawa has kept her feelings for her schoolmate Azuma-kun a secret for quite some time, but one day, she gathered her courage and confessed! However, for some reason, one after another things fell apart: her confession was called "wrong," her crush saw her underwear, her handmade presents were criticized, and so on. Undaunted, she continued to converse with Azuma-kun daily, and the two slowly became close, until Azuma-kun invited her to talk at school, as well! Now the two eat lunch together, but what will happen to them there?!

ep. 7 Are You in Love?


Azuma-kun... Why is it that boys respond to a simple conversation with condescending, unsolicited advice?
Sometimes we just need to show off.

Azuma-kun is famously stubborn.

His unique perspective gets him into arguments time and again.

Without exception, all of his friends call him a weirdo.

Aizawa-san is beautiful.

So beautiful, no one dares approach her.

Because of this, there are few in the school who know her true nature.

The fact that these two whiled away their lunch break in each other's company in the school courtyard is a juicy bit of gossip that has swept the school like a tempest.

And so, the next day...

♪ It's the... It's the...

bweeeeeee~ ba-dap bap bap!

キンコン

BING

BOOOONG

It is now lunch break.

猫を入れないで

No cats allowed!
—Gardening Club

For me...

...boxed lunches are one of the great joys in life.

Rice, fried foods, and rolled omelets make for a simple yet unrivaled lineup.

And the promise of being ready to eat anytime, anywhere has its own special allure as well.

BROC-COLI, HOW-EVER, I CANNOT STAND FOR!

NO MATTER THE HEALTH BENEFITS OR VERSA-TILITY...

...THAT DOES NOT GIVE YOU THE RIGHT TO FORCE IT INTO EVERY DISH!

The pieces are so tiny, too!

TREMBLE TREMBLE

You mustn't be a picky eater, Azuma-kun!

TWEET

チュン!

TWEEDLEET

チチチ…

This is a dream come true...

ドキッ BA-DUM

!!

Azuma-kun is right here.

Azuma-kun is right here.

Azuma-kun is right here.

Azuma-kun is right here.

That, at school... at Azuma-kun's favorite place, even...

N-no, I'll eat, too.

You aren't hungry, Aizawa-san?

I always watched him.

*Easy Home Gardening by Toshitaka Itagi

What's your favorite thing to eat for lunch, Aizawa-san?

CHOMP むぐ むぐ CHOMP

The balance between rice and other items is key to a proper boxed lunch.

I'm kind of nervous to eat lunch right in front of him...

...we could sit like this, side by side.

POP

ぱっ

わ！

only rice→

Hey.

C'mon, c'mon!

CHOMP

もぐ

CHOMP

もぐ

♡

It's so good! ♡

MURMUR

They're having a nice lunch together, just like yesterday, huh?

Why's she with Azuma?

Huh?

Isn't that Aizawa-san?

MURMUR

This is causing quite a stir!

Noi
Peo

Well, don't they look comfor-table?

...

They have to be dating, right?

They look pretty damn close, don't they?

WHY DON'T WE JUST ASK 'EM?

PSH! NO WAY! AS IF!

What, like just ask straight out?

Ah ha ha ha ha

Yeah, we should just get a straight answer from them right now.

WHOOSH

If they are dating, that's a big issue for us.

It means that even Azuma can land a hot girlfriend like Aizawa-san.

Hey, Azuma, you bas-tard!

As people, we won't stand for being second to that trash!

WHAM!

HOW NICE TO SEE YOU! OH, ARE YOU HAVING LUNCH OUT IN THE GARDEN?

MIND IF WE JOIN YOU? ♡

WHAT? IT'S NOT AN UNREA-SONABLE REQUEST!

Fine! We'll stay out of your way, then!

You jerk!

Are you sure?

It's fine.

If I leave any openings, they'll eat me alive.

It's quite likely that seeing the two of us peacefully eating together...

...is such a strange sight to them that they had to come bully me about it.

Those girls are from a world ruled by the law of the jungle.

Boys are much more peaceful.

Two men together won't quarrel, but will instead work together to support one.

Girls are quick to divide everything up into stark black and white.

Is that true?

Looked to me more like they were worried about it.

ROLL ROLL ROLL

THINGS ARE DIFFERENT ONCE A WOMAN GETS INVOLVED.

How-ever...

Oh.

Par-
don
me.

Get
lost,

Kei-
suke.

CRUSHED

What?
Why?!

Pardon
me.

Hmph! Trying to play it cool?

Fine, then! From this point on, we ain't friends anymore!

COME ON! YOU CAN'T JUST MONOPOLIZE HER LIKE THAT! YOU JERK!

What a ridiculous accu-sation.

CRUSHED

What? Aizawa-san?!

...that wasn't what she asked, idiot.

She's even more beautiful up close!

Can you guys just calm down?

EXCITED

ワイ

WELL? HOW'D IT GO?

EXCITED

ワイ

Man! Why all this so sud-denly?

I just can't catch a break now!

He's the biggest idiot I know.

What a fragile friend-ship...

Kei-suke Itoh.

...

Who was that?

...but if I wasn't here, you wouldn't be hassled so much...

You don't need to apologize.

I...I'm sorry. This is my fault.

What if, because of all this, he tells me to go?

If anyone should apologize, it's me.

It's odd for them to make such a commotion over this in the first place!

There's nothing for you to apologize for, Aizawa-san.

Still... Why is everyone making such a fuss?

...

He didn't...

...tell me to go.

Excuse me...

That's a relief...

Well... They all want me to ask you some-thing.

Is there just a whole group of you sending one person at a time?

So now it's your turn?

Exact-ly...

...what kind of relationship do you two have?

Ask?

Ask what?

MAN, THIS IS HARD.

Um, well...

Well... I mean ...

Huh? ?

What?

...

MURMUR

You two are suddenly eating lunch together in full view of the public.

Every-body is wonder-ing...

MURMUR

Are you two dating?

BLUUUUUUUUSH

Huh?

Wha...?

Sorry, Azuma. I couldn't stop them.

I'M SO JEAL-OUS!

THAT'S RIGHT!

HOW DARE YOU FLIRT SO BRAZENLY?! AZUMA, YOU BASTARD!

OH.

I guess they followed me.

For one, isn't it rude to ask that right in front of Aizawa-san?!

Oh!

Exactly what part of this makes you think that?!

F... flirt?!

Are you daft?!

It's Azuma-kun and Aizawa-san!

Tamaki!

What's going on? Why the crowd?

Oh, Azuma-kun. I went ahead and emailed you that bondage thing we were talking about on LINE yesterday.

He's so cool... Even with that weird hair, he's so cool...

What? That's not fair!

WHOOSH

He's the exclusive property of class one.

Hold up! I'm sorry, but I'm going to have to ask you not to get near our Tamaki.

Hey...

It's—

Whoa!

ドドド

Oho!
Even at the station?
What?!
Why wasn't I told about this, Shiro?!
Hm?
Dun-no.
They sit together at the train station, too.
Tamaki, are Azuma-kun and Aizawa-san dating?
What's with them?
...
CHATTER
CHATTER
WHY ARE YOU HIDING IT?
COME ON! JUST TELL US!
When, where, how, and with whom did I ever—
So Aizawa-san is...
...
ガーン
CRUSHED
Why's everyone...
...bringing this up?

SO, ARE YOU TWO GOING OUT?

ARE YOU IN LOVE?

We are not dating, and we are not in love!

Nothing more and nothing less.

...are merely meeting here, as friends, to talk to one another.

Azuma-kun and I...

Please.

TO— BOW

Do not misunderstand the situation.

So...

...all this commotion is disturbing us.

Come on!

That's all you wanted, too, right?

Let's go.

CROWDING

Zzzzzz

Tamaki ...

I see...

It's nothing special!

See?

*

Sorry!

Bye for now!

See you, Azuma-kun! Aizawa-san!

Sorry...

I should have said it.

You had to stand up and everything...

It's sur-prising.

Just because I sat next to you...

...all these people came to talk.

You know...

This is the first time I've been sur-rounded by so many people.

Eh he he クスクス

If one of us attracted them...

...it would have to be you, Aizawa-san.

They aren't bad people.

They just got caught up in the spectacle.

So, please...

...don't let it discourage you from talking to me.

PAT

Hey, Azuma!

Hm?

POCKY

Good morn-ing!

Here. Take this.

From then on...

Just take it.

Hm?

Sorry about yesterday.

I just apologized to Aizawa-san, too.

仕事。

*WORK by Genki Kawamura

HA HA HA!

HA! SHIRO!

SMACK SMACK

HA HA HA HA!

PAT

Morn-ing.

Sorry, Azuma.

...?

HUH? BUT...

...huh?

Everyone's being too nice to me.

What's going on?

You like Aizawa-san, don't you, Azuma?

Sorry for butting in.

So it was one-sided, huh?

Only makes sense, right?

It must sting to hear her call you a friend like that!

You have no chance in hell!

...

What?!

The girls and I are all cheering for you.

Yeah, yeah!

Ah, don't worry about it.

GA CLATTER

N—

NO!

PAT

...

Hmm

And so...

No! I mean ...

Cheer up, Azuma!

Azuma!
I heard you confessed to Aizawa-san in the courtyard and she turned you down?

Not even slightly true.

As he got irritated and flustered and denied it all...

...Azuma-kun discovered that the more he denied it, the more people believed it..

If I remain calm...

...the other party seems to accept it.

For a rumor, it sure spread fast!

Oh, is that so?

Azuma-kun and I are merely meeting here, as friends, to talk to one another.

Nothing more and nothing less.

It must be inconvenient for Aizawa-san, as well...

Azuma! I heard you hugged Aizawa-san in the courtyard?

I still don't get why this happened...

Well...

...at least we can have pleasant conversations again.

So that's good.

Azuma! I heard you proposed to Aizawa-san in the courtyard naked?

Hey, Nozomin ...

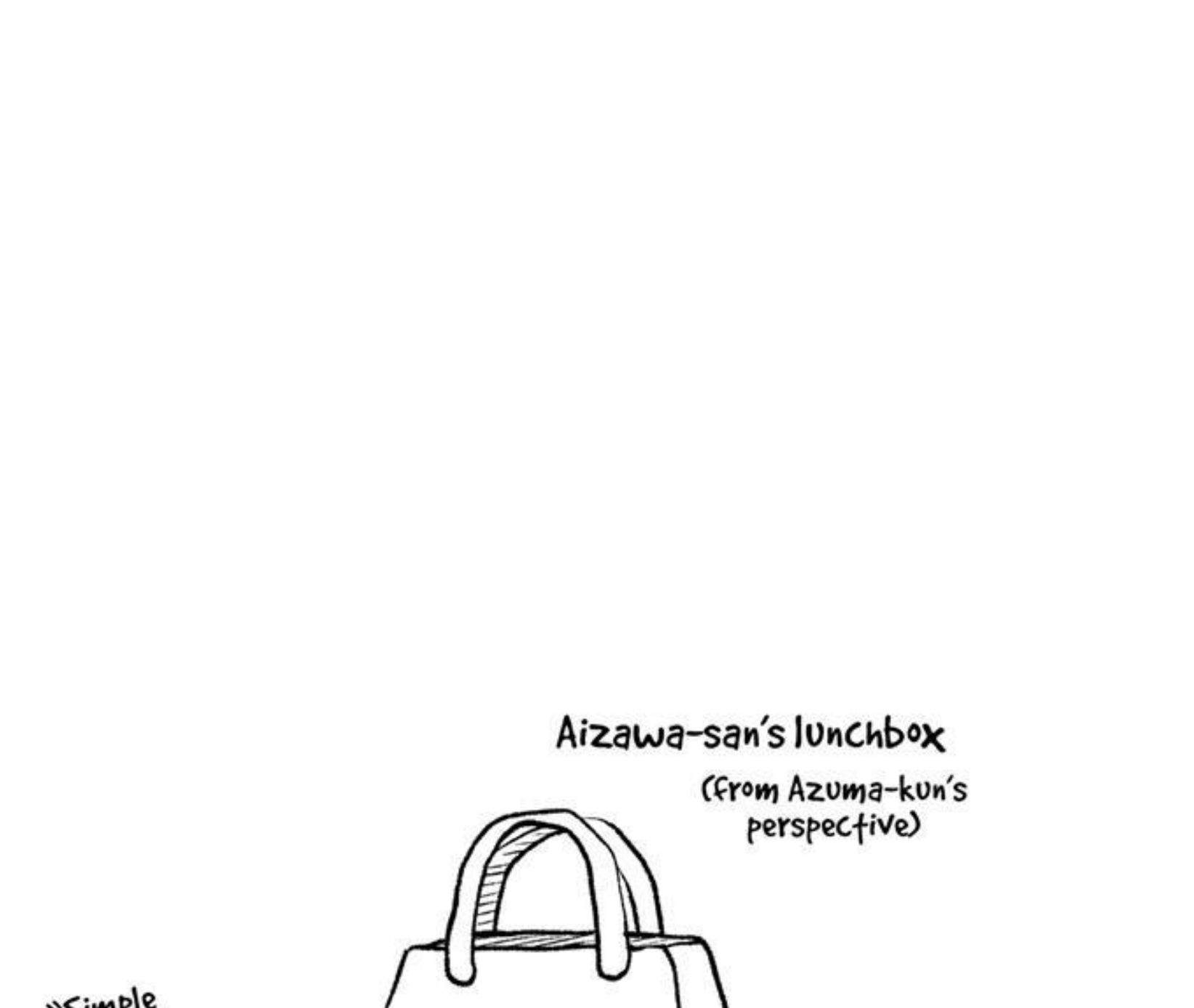
Yes, Hamarin?

The boy you like... It's Azuma from class four, right?

Is that so...

HUH?!

... yes.


Aizawa-san's lunchbox
(From Azuma-kun's perspective)
"Simple is best!" Sometimes she adds a single pickled plum for variety.
full of constantly boiling water
There's a tag inside that reads "Aizawa Nozomi, year 5, Wisteria class."


RUMORS
I heard he composed a love ballad to her, and she turned him down.
RUMOR
RUMOR
Hey, Azuma! I heard you knocked Aizawa-san over in the courtyard?
RUMOR
RUMOR
I heard she was repulsed by his leg hair.
I heard he tried to hold her hand and she smacked him one!
わさ
This is character assassination! I'd never do such things!
Rrraaagh! Why is it that every single one of these rumors has me mess something up?!
Fine! Do your worst!
heh heh heh
Isn't that the norm for you?
SNUB
When you keep picking fights with girls, this is your just reward!
Hm?
WHISPER
WHISPER
I get the feeling I'm being watched...
If anything, it's the norm for her...
I—I just happened to be in the bushes!
RUSTLE
Oh! H-hello, Azuma-kun!
And why did you "just happen" to be in the bushes again...?
I wasn't trying to eavesdrop or anything!
TUMBLE

ep. 8 Getting Scratched by a Cat Makes Me Kind of Happy

*Annual Harvest Festival

*1-3 Tater Cafe
baked potato・candied sweet potato
~Health Promotion Show~

It made me really happy.

Your bad.

I have to say, for me...

*SPECIAL
*Big Cornet - $1.80

*COMMISSARY

ザワ
期間限定
BIGコロネ
¥200

CHATTER

購買部

CHATTER
ザワ

ホットドッグ ¥150

¥180

Ah ha ha! Like I was saying...

Katsu Curry - $3.20
Curry - $1.80
Tsukimi Udon - $1.80
Wakame Udon - $1.80
Kitsune Udon - $1.80

きつねうどん ¥250
わかめうどん ¥200
月見うどん ¥200
カレー ¥200
カツカレー ¥350

Excuse me! One *yakisoba* bun, please!

*[obscured] - $1.65, Hot Dog - $1.40

It's okay.

Please go ahead.

C-come on.

What should I get?

Yakisoba
$0.90

Hurry it up.

S-sorry. You can go first.

キ BING
BOOOONG
It is now lunch break.

A salmon boxed lunch...

At this morning's assembly, the principal had a slip of the tongue...
It's a relief to know even adults make those kinds of mistakes.

CHOMP
MUNCH
Salmon, then rice... Salmon, then rice... An eternal loop begins.
CHOMP
MUNCH
Oh, no! It won't do if I don't include sliced burdock root, too!

Great! This is truly a lunch among lunches. The king of lunch! (So named for the king salmon, of course.)
Thank you, Mother. I love salmon!

And now, for the last extra-large portion of rice I was saving, along with the final exquisite cut of—

ぱく…

CHOMP

Ugh. Why is there a cat here?

oh, look!

It's a cat!

Eeee!

A cat!

CHATTER

CHATTER

My salmon!

DASH

Hey! Come back here!

No sense in getting bent out of shape over a cat, I suppose...

Azuma-kun!

Look! I got one of the daily special, limited-release chocolate cornets!

I decided to go all-in on this one!

200

Miss Presi-dent?

OH!

HAMA-RIN?!

what about your club?

Aizawa-san.

YO.

*No cats allowed!
—Gardening Club

Let me introduce you...

猫と下さない
園芸部

He comes to my club sometimes.

What?! You know Azuma-kun, Hamarin?!

President Hamada always makes me feel welcome.

I have a friend in the literature club.

This is my friend from class...

...Marin Hamada-chan!

*BIG CHOCOLATE CORNET

Though she doesn't look it, she's the president of the literature club!

We know each other.

WHISPERING

Hamarin! I really would have appreciated knowing this a little earlier!

Look, Nozomin, I didn't know Azuma-kun was the person you liked.

I'M JUST HERE TO CATCH SOME SUN.

Well, don't mind me.

Just do what you always do.

長時間発酵 あんバタークリーム

*WELL-AGED Cream Anpan

もぐ… MUNCH

IT'S SO GOOD!

もぐ… MUNCH

Sometimes I see the literature club meetings there.

I've been invited to share comments on their work, as well.

I'm always borrowing things from the library.

shared portion

It surprised me that you've been in contact with the literature club, Azuma-kun.

He made three of my first-year girls cry.

Afterwards, they took your words to heart and couldn't stop gushing over you.

I just couldn't wrap my head around the part where the boy gets down on his knees and confesses his undying love to a girl he merely bumped into in the hallway.

I was just trying to make sure I didn't interpret the scene incorrectly, since I'd only skimmed it...

You defended me at the time, didn't you?

Hold up. If you say it like that, she might misunderstand.

...

Wh...

What's this?

I—I don't remember any gushing!

If that was the case, I must apologize for throwing the order of the club into disarray.

...uneasiness.

Somehow, I sense a faint...

This is friend vetting.

But why? Does she dislike me, for whatever reason? She's always been a rather blunt person...

Azuma. Why do you eat lunch out here with Nozomin?

No, that's not it.

Most likely, she's testing me to see if I'm worthy of being Aizawa-san's friend.

It's that kind of thing, isn't it? Girls just love ~~meddling~~ giving their outside opinion on things.

Oh, will you? I want you two to meet!

I wanna see if he's good for you.

Hey, introduce me to your guy.

Very well. I accept.

Owing to her kindness, Aizawa-san and I have been such good friends lately!

There's no reason to put me to the test...

...but I accept this challenge readily!

How about that?! An answer so pristinely perfect that it's impossible to refute!

Why, you ask?

It is because this is the optimal spot to pass a maximally-enjoyable lunchtime!

DING

DONG

What's going on, Hamarin?

Huh? What are you going on about?

That wasn't what I asked, dumbass.

I was wrong! She does just hate me!

Oh!
Is—is it that you l-l-l-love—
No way!
I just said I don't like or dislike him, didn't I?
Not every-thing is about romance, you know.
MURMUR
ガヤ
Nah.
After what you said...
Do you hate Azuma-kun?
I don't really like or dislike him.
Then why did you...
MURMUR
ガヤ
...
Thanks.
It's just... frustrat-ing.
He's so bad with women.
And you're...
...really beautiful.

That's true...

But... ... Azuma-kun isn't the kind of person who would do that.

That's what I like about him.

Azuma-kun isn't really that kind of person, though.

Why not?

You told me before that you didn't like it when people reduce you to your appearance.

Oh, um...

Well, if you say things are fine, that's good enough for me.

Although... if I'm as beautiful as you say, I'd hope it would have at least a little influence...

Even though we're both the opposite sex, when I'm alone with him, all he wants to talk about is his lunch...

Huh?

...

Next time I see Azuma-kun, I'll apologize to him. Sound good?

See you later. I'm gonna hit the restroom.

Nozomin is...

...head over heels for him.

Damn it! I didn't catch a single word of that.

ミルFヤLSHHHHぉぉぉぉぉぉ

...

水を大切に

BURBLE BURBLE

*DON'T WASTE WATER

Well, okay, I mean, I'd dislike whoever it was even if it wasn't him!

Why is it that, in any given situation, her reaction is to run away? How's she supposed to have a productive conversation about the issue if she's not there?

Also... ... ...

Sorry... I don't understand the heroine's actions here.

Plus, Azuma? Why Azuma?!

Nozomin could totally get someone way better!

I'D BE SO LONELY!

THUD どぅん

WHAP ばぁ

THUD どぅん

BAM ガー

...

Hm?

My sweet Nozomin ...

Nozo-min ...

Aah...

Hamarin~

But Nozomin's heart has already become a garden in bloom, just like with those girls...

Wasn't that upper-classman Azuma kinda cool?

I know, right?

I just can't do romance stuff like other girls!

It's just totally lame!

This is Nozo-min, after all!

Azuma could fall for her any day!

I'm sure someone has written the answer somewhere.

MURMUR

MURMUR

Ah ha ha...

This gloomy feeling that I don't understand...

...I'll figure out what it is.

HISSSSSSSSS

I know!

I'll read a book.

...I'm sorry.
I can't.

*Congratulations, new students!

新入学おめでとう

...

I just entered this school...

Ah...I figured. Sorry.

It's like...

...everyone is so distant from me.

I wonder why?

I should try harder.

Aizawa-san is so pretty ...

She's got an aura about her.

It's like she's from another world.

She's so high-class.

Would you like to be friends ...?

Um...!

I'm sorry.

Can I go now?

Can we still be—

O-oh. Okay.

My bad.

Oh! I'm sor-ry!

No-body ...

...wants to approach me.

I'm just ...

...so tired of it.

*Harvest Festival

If you know I'm there, at least talk to me.

I try, and I try, and nothing changes, so who cares?

CLATTER CLATTER

Ah!

カラン カラン

CLATTER

FLUTTER

BAM! どんっ

Your bad.

Yes.

...

I'm sorry.

You're right.

Where are my glasses...?

Thank you.

...

So his name is Azuma-kun...

Azuma!

I wonder ...

...what it would be like to talk with him.

What would we say?

What words would we use?

Hm?

Every once in a while...

...I get swallowed up by negative feelings.

But I want my heart to remain calm.

Like the open sky...

I'd thought about it and thought about it...

Before I knew it, my eyes followed him every-where.

I don't think he recognizes me from back then...

He didn't have his glasses on.

Once I'd gotten the distance between us down to just one meter...

...I worked up the courage to confess.

Right now...

I can relax, my heart as light as the breeze.

What nice weather.

Soon it'll be time for the Harvest Festival once more.

DING DOOOONG

キーン

Something I never imagined could be true back then.

*Romance

Hey.

Miss President.

...Ugh.

Azuma.

...

CREAK CREAK

ギシ

しゃく

Azuma.

JUMP

ビクッ

ドッキ

BA-DUM

Sorry about earlier.

I don't hold a grudge against you or anything.

I was just in a bad mood.

To be honest, I don't think I was wrong.

And I don't want to be disliked.

But Nozomin asked me to apologize.

...Does that even count as an apology?

My second and third aunts were really close.

Then, my second aunt got a partner...

...and my third aunt began to drink heavily and quarrel with me.

...

So, I have these four aunts...

Sounds pretty bad.

Witnessing this, I realized...

So...

...my second aunt.

...really loved...

...my third aunt...

What's that?

Are you saying I'm the kind of person who gets drunk and picks fights with people?

WH—?!

JUMP

Also, you ain't her boyfriend.

...Oh.

... there's no need to apologize.

Aizawa-san must be a very important person in your life.

Women seem to value those close to them an exceptional amount...

Her boyfriend...?!

N-no!

I just wanted to say that you needn't worry about this kind of thing!

Very observant.

You know, he's strangely...

Hmph.

Let me just say this one thing...

You can get close...

...but if you ever hurt her, I won't let you off easy.

Look.

Nozomin is my friend.

Excuse me...

カーン

Hama-rin?

Are you around?

CLACK

...Okay.

I under-stand.

WHAT?! AZUMA-KUN?!

Lucky you, though.

Azuma's not normally here this time of day.

Today was an exception.

Wh-what do you mean? I came looking for you!

You were acting odd earlier today.

LIBRARY

Nothing important.

It's a secret.

What were you two talking about?

...Sorry, Nozomin.

I felt like you were slipping away from me.

Don't be silly, Hamarin!

That's absurd, Hamarin!

Okay, but...

...if you suddenly told me you two were dating, I don't know what would happen!

I'm hopeless with romance stuff.

IT'S A GIVEN THAT THE THOUGHT OF DATING AZUMA-KUN OCCUPIES MY MIND MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE!

Once again, Azuma-kun meets Aizawa-san in an awkward situation...

...I'm only walking by...

Hamarin ...

GRRRRR

What're you looking at, loser?!

We have gym next. You got a problem with that?


ow!
ow,
ow,
ow!
cut it out already!
!?
GRIND
GRIND
GRIND

BIRTH of A STALKER

Before she fell in love...

Hmm... So his name is Azuma-kun...

I'm not really interested, but...

I guess he's in the next class over?

I saw Azuma-kun feeding a stray cat. He looks so moody, but he's a surprisingly kind person.

I wonder if I'll see him smile again?

All he does at school is get into arguments with girls.

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

I really want to see his smile...

...and smiled a bit!

Yeah!

Hooray! Azuma-kun won a free juice...

At that moment, something awakened within her...

HUFF

HUFF

If I stay nearby... I might see it...!

I'll stay hidden so I don't disturb him!

*TAMAUDUN

*PERVY PARADISE

New Obsolete Words Compendium
Science: A History
History
Maths I
English-Japanese Dictionary

ep. 9 It's Puberty, After All

Our Precious Conversations: The story so far!

Azuma-kun and Aizawa-san (who is still very much in love with him) have changed their meeting spot to the school courtyard, where they do all the things friends do together...

...but hopefully things will get a little steamier between them, too! (wishes Aizawa-san)

I wish things would progress...

I think mince lunches are their own special type of cuisine.

Leaving aside *donburi*-style* meals, they lack a clear distinction between their rice and side dishes.

Their uniqueness of structure almost calls to mind the mahjong hand Seven Pairs**...

*served over rice rather than alongside it
**one of a small number of hands that doesn't follow the pattern of four sets plus a pair

I wonder what Azuma-kun thinks of me.

We eat lunch together, sure, but...

BA-DUM

BA-DUM

Can I get him to see me as a woman, somehow...?

That looks so good!

Want to try it? Open wide! ♡

LOVEY-DOVEY

How nice... They're like two birds sent aloft on the winds of love.

I thought we'd be able to talk more at school, but it looks like we can only talk during our all-too-short lunch break.

If nothing changes, I'll be stuck in an eternity of Azuma-kun's lunch food opinions...

Though that's still pretty good.

Aizawa-san... what are those?

ドドドド BA-DUM

Hm? Like... biscotti?

Yes. Toasted bread crusts.

What? These?

They're toasted bread crusts.

Ah!

W-would you like to try one?

Oh, may I?

Yes! Yes! Of course!

Here!

Open wide...

BA-DUM BA-DUM

ドキドキ

Okay. Thanks.

THWIP

QUIVER

SHUFFLE

Come on!

You can carry me better than that, idiots!

Could it be that Azuma-kun doesn't see me as a woman?

SOB SOB SOB

That... didn't work out like I'd hoped.

もくもく MUNCH MUNCH

This is pretty good.

Heave, ho!

Heave, ho!

If you drop me, I'll never forgive you!

Oh!

Hey there, Azuma! Aizawa-chan!

Forward, you fools!

Full speed ahead!

S... sorry... This is my limit...

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

YOU GOTTA DO ME NEXT!

M-me, too!

These guys're taking me there now.

Azuma, next up we have to go to the AV room.

The gender power balance in Class Four...

...Seems a bit one-sided today.

CRASH!

oh no!

My horses fell down!

Whoa!

Dream Boys

What happened?

Well... it was nothing major...

Earlier today, during second break...

That's nice!

Whoa!

110

FLIP

Pretty nice.

Really nice!

They're really big!

They're pretty big.

They're so big!

DreamBoys

It just can't be resisted!

Pretty irresistible.

Irresistible!

Wowee!

110

FLIP

I mean, I don't care. If you wanna read a porn mag in the classroom, knock yourself out.

I'm just bored.

H-hey! It's fine, right?! It's not hurtin' anybody!

Do you like it that much?

...Hey.

ぎゅっ

ULP...

Nah... no can do.

Give us a break.

Why don't you try lusting after me?

You wanna talk shit? Fine! How about, if I can make your heart skip, you're my slave for the day!

It's flat-out impossible! Especially if it's someone like you!

Why not?! You've got uncontrollable desires, enough that you'd even read a porn mag at school, right?! There isn't a creature on earth that teenage boys don't want to screw, according to my older brother!

Who in the world would have that reaction to you, huh?!

Don't make light of us! We have common decency, you know!

Ha ha ha! I got you good! You wanna see? You wanna see?

Dammit! My heart totally skipped!

Arghh!

あ あ あ

No! It was inevitable! It felt like a jolt ran through me!

And part of me is still disappointed she's wearing safety shorts ...

SHOCK

ギョッ

AH?!

FLIP

ひらり

There.

The very audacity of the Class Four girls is mind-boggling...

...

it went kinda like that.

Okay! You guys're my man-servants now!

SCREECH

Since then, Keisuke and the other boys have waited on the girls hand and foot.

They've all lost their dignity...

Azuma-kun is trembling like a scared puppy...

You do realize it's stuff like that that makes girls treat you like an enemy, right?

FOR ONE, WHY IS IT THAT WOMEN GET MAD WHEN YOU DON'T TREAT THEM LIKE WOMEN, BUT THEN THEY GET MAD WHEN YOU DO?!

W-well... if you think about it as a way to communicate with them...

No! It's not just cute!

It's a game played by wild animals with too much free time!

Still, even if I disagree with their methods, the assertiveness of the girls in Class Four is really something worth studying!

Unnecessary Ambition

I want to get Azuma-kun's heart to skip!

One mo-ment...

Hm?

It'll get wrinkled. I'll put it back.

WIGGLE おり

WIGGLE おり

AH HA HA HA HA!

I rolled up my skirt!

Aah... it's really embarrassing for some reason...

What's up? Need to use the restroom?

3cm

It's no good! He didn't notice!

THOP たっ

THOP たっ

THOP たっ

THOP たっ

FASTER, KEISUKE! FASTER!

DAMN IT! YOU LEFT YOUR MIRROR IN THE CLASSROOM? DO YOU EVEN NEED IT?!

I'm really glad I wasn't there.

Look at that! All that, just from peeking up a girl's skirt!

LESS TALKY, MORE WALKY!

Ah ha ha ha ha!

WE WON'T LET THIS BE FORGOTTEN! ...STARTING TOMORROW.

WHEEEEEEEEEE!!!

...

So, if you had been there...

WOULD YOU HAVE LOOKED?

...

SIGH

Azuma-kun is such a gentle-man.

Ah ha ha ha

Ah... that's why you said that.

Who knows what would have happened if I'd been there.

The whole thing could have happened in my field of vision, though.

No way!

Ha ha ha!

No.

I just...

Sometimes I see the pages out of the corner of my eye.

Hm? Is that all?

...

So, what about you? Do you read those?

THE MAGAZINES THAT KEISUKE-KUN BRINGS?

It's still so strange to me that your friends would bring a magazine like that to school, though.

クスクス

he he he

Yeah, Keisuke likes that kind of stuff.

Especially in hard copy.

Boys are mysterious...

I can't help clean that way, can I?

...

You'd better not open this door!

CLACK

ひゅしゅん!!

If a boy says not to open a door, it's really in your best interests not to open it.

Now that I think about it, my little brother borrowed something like that from one of his friends the other day, and he shut himself in his room for the better part of an hour after telling me not to go in...

Yeah, my grandma said that, too.

I wonder what that was all about?

To fluff up my image? Out of excessive self-consciousness?

I wonder if he really does look at that kind of stuff...?

What's the point of such a false conversation?!

For some reason...

...I've been lying about myself this whole time.

Eh he he... You're different from my brother, after all!

Just say it! Tell her! Tell her you really want to see up girls' skirts! Lay bare the stark reality that is yourself!

Ah ha ha... In— in which way?

Aizawa-san! To tell the truth...

What kind of situation have I gotten myself into?!

This is the same Aizawa-san that almost fainted from shock at merely seeing my leg hair! If I tell her I've perused the vast bulk of Keisuke's collection, she'll think I'm an idiot!

It's impossible! I can't say it! I **shouldn't** say it!

This is social suicide, isn't it?!

This...

Come of think of it, there was that time once before when he saw up my skirt, and he didn't really seem affected by it...

But...wait. He said that thing about "face, boobs, and body" before...

in volume one

I thought pretty much every boy was into this sort of thing...

...but Azuma-kun isn't.

I shouldn't have lumped him in with my brother.

...doesn't seem to be interested in girls.

Azuma-kun...

Huh?!

S-

SO, MY BRO-THER-

JUMP

ヒ"

ワッ

My brother's magazine had a bunch of women in these, um, these nurse outfits and things like that...

...

No?

I guess that kind of thing is...

...a little appeal-ing?

Do you like... that stuff?

Like... injec-tions... thermome-ters...

Maybe...

...he likes girls. Just not me.

Appealing?!

...Why did I say that to her... That was such a stupid mistake... Why thermometers?!

Am I really going to be okay like this?! Can I possibly meet his sophisticated tastes?!

It's a little appealing?!

Argh! Damn it! Arghh! Damn it!!

I don't really understand, but I guess he actually is interested in women after all! And what's more, his taste seems...rather sophisticated.

When did I become such a coward?!

Why?! Why can't I just talk about my fetishes with Aizawa-san?!

AAH!

You look a little ill.

Are you okay?

CRASH
SH
SH
SH
SH

A-
Azuma-
kun?!

Are...
are
you
okay?

I'm
fine.

This is
nothing.

You
just...

...got
really
close
to
me...

...and
I was
surprised.

...sorry, but...

...can we just forget about today's conversation?

I'm off my game today...

...for some reason.



I just wanted...

...to look good in front of you.



I just cleared my head a bit...

Why am I so concerned...

...with having other people think well of me?

Exactly how was any of that "looking good"?!

I wasn't so concerned before.

...I am...?

BA-DUM

...you are...

I wonder if it might be because...

...a fairly peculiar person.

SLUMP

Oh? Sorry.

A peculiar person?

...Azuma-kun.

You shouldn't say that about a girl.

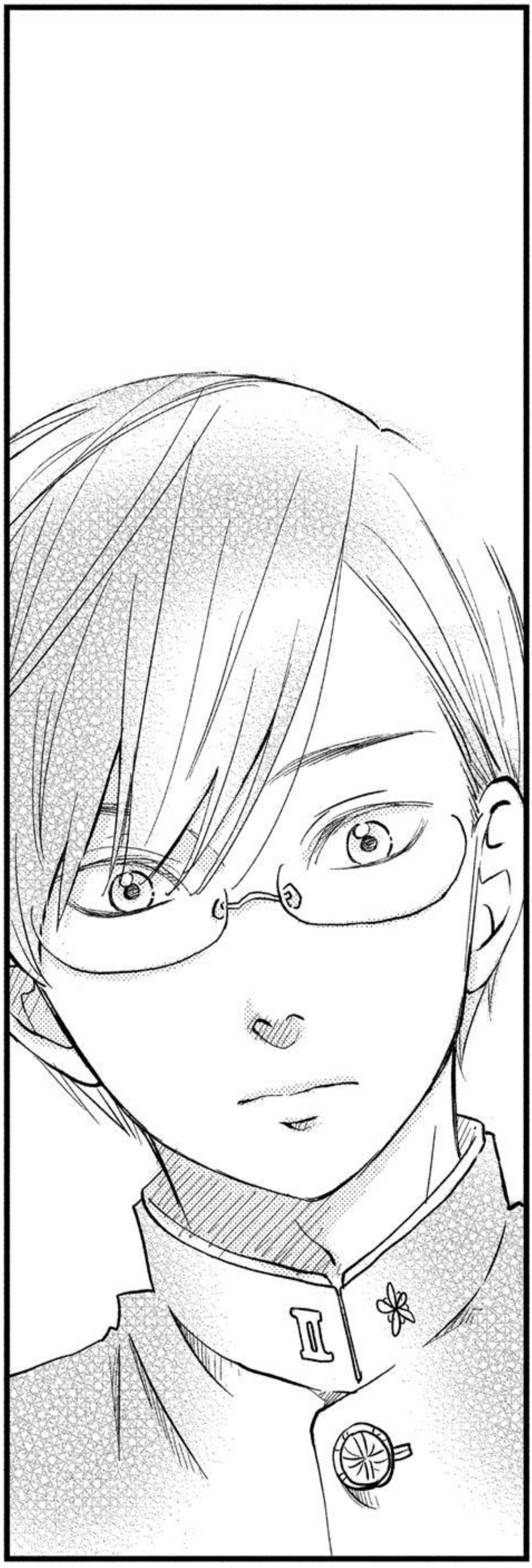
Also...

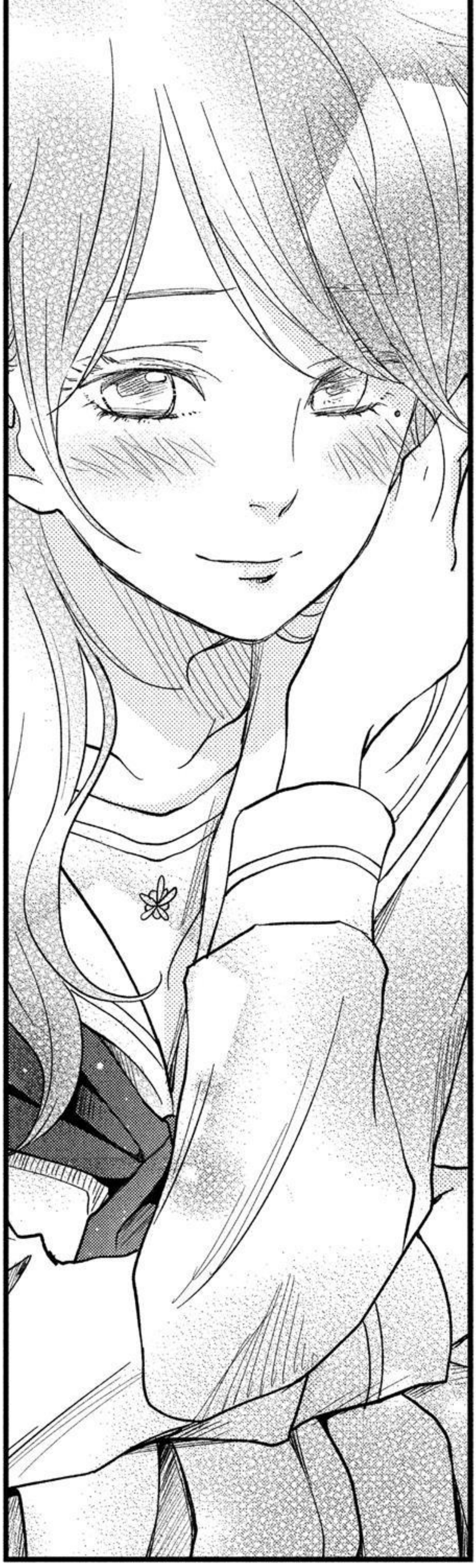
...on that topic...

...I think I'm also trying mostly to look good in front of you.

I just want...

...I want you to see me as a woman.





I—I MEAN—

I CAN'T SEE YOU IN ANY OTHER WAY!

Oh! The warning bell.

キーンコーン…

DING DONG

I want you to see me...

...as a woman.

Aizawa-san!

I,

um...

Think of you as a woman, I mean.

I usually do.

Ah!

TUMBLE

What's more, I...

WHOOSH

...things feel a little different today.

ドキ BA-DUM

I won-der why...

but...

ドキ BA-DUM

S-sorry! I dropped my toast sticks.

Let me help.

...an unusually strong wind gusted by.

Just then...

ヒュー FWOOOOOOSH

FLAP

WOOW

OOSH

U-
umm...

Don't worry.

Look.

Before, you said that since you were wearing tights, it was okay, right?

...

Should you ever find yourself in this situation, the correct response is, "Don't worry, I didn't see anything."

ALTHOUGH IF YOU WERE TO ASK ME, I THINK WITH THE PANTYHOSE IS MUCH SEXIER...!

How-ever...

PC室 COMPUTER LAB

OH! They're loading!

100

Azuma-kun chose the wrong time...

...to break his streak of decep-tions.

In the end, whether you view them as women or not, they still get mad...

I think you might be using a different meaning of "as a woman," dude.

From us, at least.

*VIDEO TOP 100

*Maga-Rin 1

This site has the cutest girls, I swear.

Idiot.

Dude... Not during class.

New videos are up!

Whoa, nice!

You never learn, do you?

Where?

That wasn't hard at all.

What makes me so hesitant to say these things in front of Aizawa-san?

Idiots! Sleazebags! Filth!

OH!

THIS GIRL LOOKS LIKE AIZAWA-CHAN!

Leave us alone!

This is an important part of our social education!

Ugh.

You're actually serious.

You're disgust-ing.

Disgust-ing.

The disgust-ing-est!

Also, don't use "chan" for her without asking.

BAP

She doesn't.

Ow!

Hmm... I'm not too sure.

Does she?

She does! She does!

The correct word...

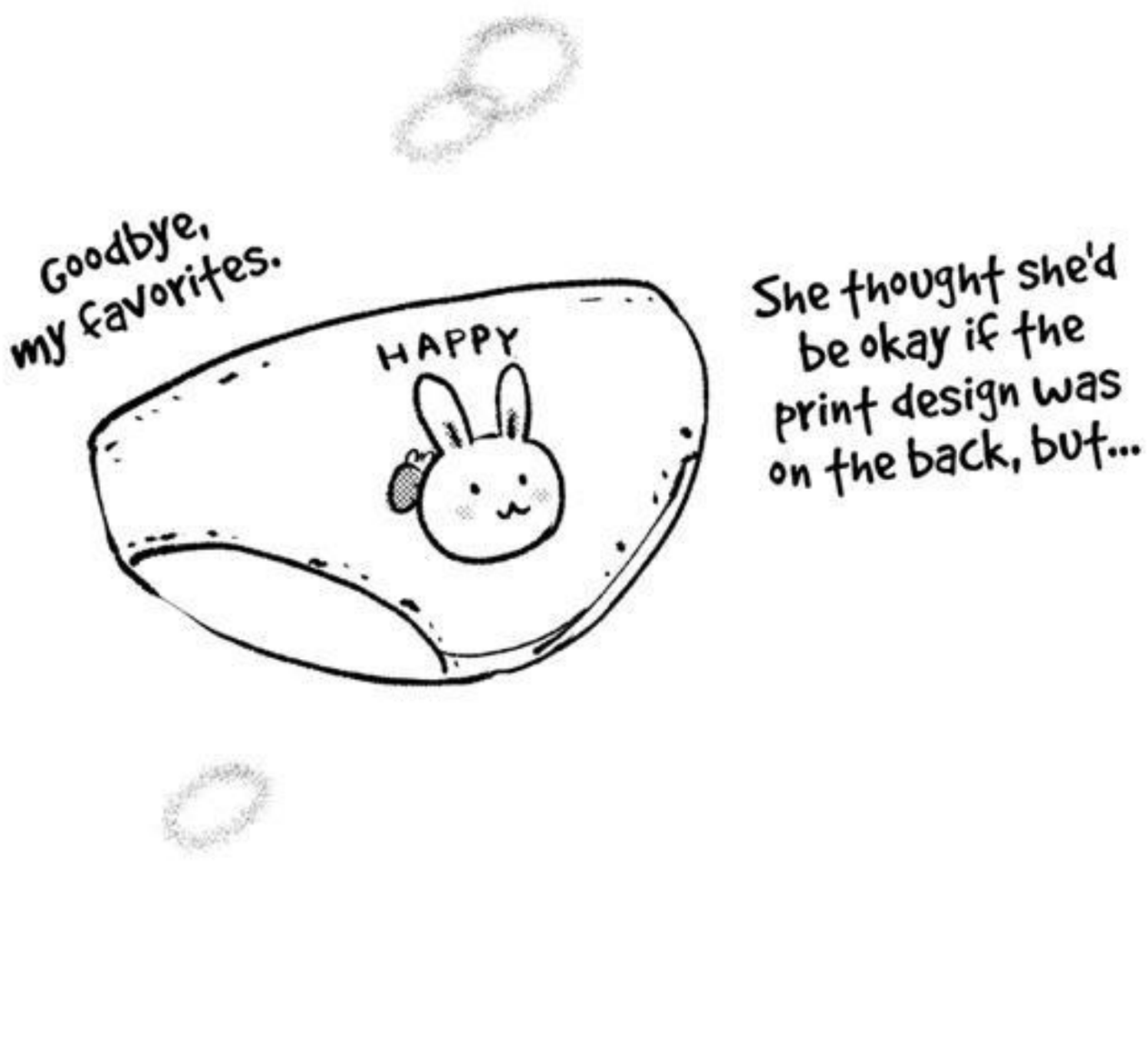
...is "special," not "peculiar."

Hey, Aizawa-san.

Hello, Azuma-kun.

Azuma-kun has yet to realize it...

...but Aizawa-san continues to try every day.


Goodbye,
my favorites.
HAPPY
She thought she'd
be okay if the
print design was
on the back, but...

CHICKEN FIGHT

Whenever you're ready.

You want me to get up here?

Right here?

You were the one who said it.

"Be my horse," you said.

What? Really?

In the end, a skirt just wouldn't do.

Oh, so *now* it's embarrassing?

...I'll change clothes!

DASH

Piggyback

You touched my butt!

How else can I do it?

ep. 10

Let's Go on a Date!



COMPLIMENTARY TICKET

"Bloodstained Love"

Any weekday at 2:30 PM

*27th Annual Heiwadai High School HARVEST FESTIVAL

...I finally won a prize! Movie tickets!

*Now is the time for our young seeds to shine.

MURMUR ザワ

After entering various contests and giveaways 26 times...

MURMUR ザワ

*FIRE EXTINGUISHER

YES!!

YES!!

YES!

I love you. Let's be boyfriend and girlfriend!

Thank you for coming with me today, Azuma-kun.

My pleasure! The movie was very enjoyable, Aizawa-san.

The same goes for me, Aizawa-san.

Although, I couldn't keep my eyes off you, Azuma-kun.

A-AZUMA-KUN! ARE YOU FREE AFTER CLASS THE NEXT TIME WE HAVE MORNING CLASSES?!

IF YOU WANT, MAYBE WE COULD...!

CLACK ガラ

職員室

*FACULTY OFFICE

Excuse me...

If I want that to happen, I'd better get moving! I've got to invite Azuma-kun!

I have to ask before his schedule fills up!

*27th Annual Heiwadai High School HARVEST FESTIVAL







Also, my glasses are just for show.

But blowing off things like that is what caused me to be called out by the teacher.

DING DONG

oh! The warning bell!

Although, the "supplementary lessons" here are really just a few extra worksheets.

On weekdays I'm always busy with something or other, and on weekends I have my card game events and tournaments...

WH-WHAT?!

I...

Supplementary lessons... fake glasses...

But... what?

I can't...

IF I'D KNOWN ALL THAT...

...THEN I WOULD HAVE TAKEN SUPPLEMENTARY LESSONS, TOO!

DING DONG

MIDTERM EVALUATION

Year 2, Class 2 Marin Hamada

	English	Science	Histo
uage	Math		
96	22▲	34▲	17▲

Those with failing grades are required to attend supplementary lessons

TODAY: MORNING CLASSES

AFTERNOON SUPPLEMENTARY LESSONS FOR STUDENTS NEEDING ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

12:45-

MURMUR

MURMUR

Forgive me, everyone.

I won't be able to issue the club newsletter today.

Hey, hey!

Hey!

MURMUR

For a club president like me to need supplementary lessons...

MURMUR

ガヤ MURMUR

Welcome to the home away from home for us failing students, the so-called Abyss!

Yo!

Coach is gonna have my head for this...

What's this? The more people who waltz in, the more faces I recognize!

MURMUR ガヤ

Don't make up weird names for it.

Okay, everyone. All we need to do to get out of these lessons is fill out and turn in these worksheets. This stuff will be on the finals, too, so remember it.

Let's divide up the work so we can all get out of here.

OKAY!

Oho! You seem pretty experienced with this, Azuma.

Let's get donuts once we're done!

CHATTER CHATTER

Huh?

What're you doing here, Azuma? Don't you wear glasses?

How rude! Don't judge others—

Azuma's a failing student, too!

Then why bother with the glasses?!

...

So, anyway, the other day...

...me and my brother went to this manga café...

Together, unfortunately.

If you wanna talk, how about the stuff you girls read? All the guys in your comics look like they're girls, too!

Trembling Love! ①~⑤

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT FROM YOU.

If a guy looks like that, you know he's a total narcissist.

They've got, like, way-too-long bangs and stuff.

Ah, it's all wish fulfill-ment.

What did you read?

...but why is it that in comics for boys, all the girls are drawn with these ridiculously huge boobs? They're way too big!

Well, I guess it was all right...

That's just scary.

Especially the porn comics. We're talking beyond human limits here.

They're all so annoying...

Ha ha ha

Nah, I got these tough curls. If I cut them any shorter, I'd look like a gangster.

Plus, it's always romance this, romance that...how boring!

Like yours are any better, with their endless training and battling!

I feel like I've had this conversation before...

Amateurs, all of them!

It's the men I don't understand! Those boobs are frightening!

The younger a girl is, the less appealing she'll find strong masculine charac-teristics.

Beards, body hair, that kind of stuff.

That's why it's necessary for the boys in girls' comics to be drawn so androgynously!

Also, the girls in my club who draw tell me that it's easier to keep a good balance if the boys have bangs!

I don't really read girls' comics, either.

Romance stories are really stupid.

FIDGET

FIDGET うずうず

I'm surprised someone like her reads comics, too.

So, my brother was also saying...

To put it another way, the story hinges on how those tensions are resolved!

Girls' comics and boys' comics are fundamentally the same. For comics with a story, the characters need to develop. The very moment the characters stop developing, the story's wrapped up.

Of course, if you just keep growing, the story's basically over, anyway.

...not that I've written anything.

That's why you always need a new antagonist or new relationship drama!

AH...

So, I asked why, of course.

He says she told him she wanted to see some beautiful scenery, so he took her hiking in the mountains as a surprise.

After a deluge of complaints, he got dumped.

That's a non-sequitur.

...his girlfriend dumped him recently.

Not that I care...

Girls always take the efforts guys make and just throw 'em in the gutter.

What's wrong with hiking?

Sounds like she snapped on him.

That's happened to me before.

What's the problem?

He sounds like a good boyfriend.

Wh—?!

Azuma, you're out!

AND THEN THERE'S SPRINGING IT ON HER OUT OF NOWHERE? HIKES CAN BE TOUGH, ESPECIALLY WITHOUT PREP AND FORE-WARNING!

THAT'S NOT A VERY PLEASANT SURPRISE, NOW IS IT?!

FIRST, WHAT'S WITH EQUATING "BEAUTIFUL SCENERY" WITH THE MOUNTAINS?

DID SHE SAY ANYTHING ABOUT MOUN-TAINS?!

CHECK IN WITH HER, DAMN IT!

IN SHORT...

Look. When a girl says that "anywhere's fine," what she means is, "as long as the atmosphere between us is good, I'm down for whatever," got it?!

It's not like how when boys say "anywhere's fine" and mean "who cares," okay? We care!

...

You're expecting that level of precision?!

Guys like you just drag your date around the places you frequent, always walkin' like a mile ahead and spoutin' some endless show-offy bullcrap! That kind of self-important date is hell!

I-I haven't even walked home with a girl!

Ah, you see, this author said this thing and this other thing and...

I see...

BLAH BLAH BLAH

There's a lot of really nice used book-stores in this area.

RARE BOOKS

I see...

STRIDE STRIDE

Exactly where are we going, Hamarin?

It's a secret.

I've done this to Nozomin before!

I've done this.

...and I didn't have much experience with the usual stuff...!

B-because... she told me "anywhere's fine"...

Urghhh... I'm on the same level as Azuma...

First of all, it's only natural that the things I suggest come from my areas of knowledge and confidence!

Was your smile a lie?

Hooray!

Look, Hamarin! These ones are free!

Aah... Nozo-min...

My beloved Nozomin...

Having someone like you for a friend just made me so happy I couldn't contain myself...

Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte

CLEARANCE

Tch! I see you've held nothing back.

I want to erase that past disaster!

I want to die.

The... the true essence?!

Is that so?

It means something that can be easily done.

What's "easy peasy"?

Let me just say, I understand the true essence of dating!

I could very handily take you on multiple dates that you'd enjoy, easy peasy!

NUMBER ONE, GOOD FOOD! NUMBER TWO, A TRENDY LOCATION! NUMBER THREE, ROMANTIC BUT NOT STIFLING! THAT'S ALL YOU NEED, IS IT NOT?!

P...PRETTY MUCH?

My well-thought-out plan for a perfect date...

...is this!

9:00 Meet in front of the train station.

9:01 Confirm both parties have arrived safely, then depart.

9:10 Arrive at location #1: a trendy knickknack shop. Make a second round to the parts she liked.

9:30 Go to location #2: a churros stand popular with women. My recommendation is the very popular strawberry flavor.

9:45 First bathroom break: Escort her nonchalantly and address her worries and insecurities.

9:50 Head to location #3: a nearby park. Rent a lovers' paddleboat and

WHAT THE HELL? IT'S WAY TOO ROUTINE!

THERE'S HARDLY ROOM TO BREATHE, IT'S SUCH A TIGHT SCHEDULE!

What an idiot!

We visit the cafe at 11:35.

The schedule can't be changed on short notice.

Also, leaving only five minutes for a girl's bathroom break isn't gonna happen.

Like, for example, what if your (hypothetical) girlfriend told you she wanted to have tea?

I FEEL SORRY FOR ANYONE STUCK WITH YOU FOR A PARTNER, SO LET ME TELL YOU THIS, FOR YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S SAKE.

いたらの話だけどね!!

If you ever get one, that is!

A DATE THAT WILL MAKE YOUR GIRL WEEP WITH JOY...

...IS THIS!

10:00

Meet in front of the train station.

Do some casual window shopping.

Head towards the new movie theater.

If you're tired, head to a nice-looking café for tea or a meal.

Finally, something the girl said was cute that they saw along the way is secretly purchased by the boy and given as a present.

Aah!

SO IT'S DOWN TO MATERIALISM!

Ugh. What a hassle.

What do you mean by "nice-looking," anyway? Give me words!

And don't say "intuition"!

That's not how the plan goes!

If you want to surprise her, this is how to do it!

The date is topped off by a small surprise.

Like, to be honest, anything you do with someone you love is going to be fun, right?

Right!

SAYING THAT PUTS US BACK AT SQUARE ONE!

Be considerate!

Come on, you know? Just check in with her with stuff like, "is this okay?" or "how's this sound?" or something!

That's it exactly!

Ugh, fine. Whatever we do is okay, but you have to listen to what she says, all right?

IRRITATED

イライラ

Uh-oh! She looks a little angry now!

Why do girls always snap over a simple conversation?!

Huh? That's all?

That's what we've been saying!

It's already fun just to talk about what you'd like to do!

Dating is a group effort!

So it's all about good commu-nication.

You got it!

If that's the kind of thing that will make her happy...

Cer-tainly ...

...if that's true...

...it's worth thinking about.

I'm going to kill Azuma.

You bastard! It's Aizawa-chan, isn't it?! You want to ask her out?!

Ha ha

More the other way around, actually?

Hm? I was talking about my hypothetical partner, of course.

WHAT? WHAT'S THIS?

WHO IS IT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, I WONDER?

Aah!

...we take the time to talk about where to go.

They never get tired of it, huh?

Are they **still** talking?

2-2 Marin Hanada

How about, the next time Nozomin and I go out...

Why Aizawa-san, anyway?

By the way, how are your worksheets coming along? Have you finished?

Not at all!

So, this morning, my dog...

I'm sure that will make it a lot more fun.

We talk to one another...

...and anticipate the date.

It might really be "anywhere's fine."

I wonder...

Where would Nozomin want to go?

After all, the Nozomin I know...

...the Nozomin I know quite well...

GROAN
ぐぬぬ…

It looks so fun...

I wonder what they're talking about...

...wants nothing more than to look at Azuma-kun.

ドーン…。 DOOONG

ガラ RATTLE

YOU REALLY NEED TO STOP DOING THIS, NOZOMIN.

Let's go home.

Hamarin! You have to tell me how to get a failing grade!

Whoa! You scared me, Aizawa-san! What are you doing here? Peeping?

Aizawa-san was too self-conscious, so they parted without really talking all that much.

She's really into it... I guess she really wanted to see it...

The next day, Aizawa-san successfully invited Azuma-kun to the movie.


I'd love to see the World's Most Bizarre Murders exhibit.
Asking where she'd like to go
?!
An unexpected answer.


on the way home
!!
Checking in with her
Thanks for inviting me.


LET'S GO ON A DATE!
CINEMA
TH-TH-THANK—
FROZEN SOLID
Here.
Hello. This is Azuma. Aizawa-san won some free movie tickets, so we're going to see a movie.
That's when I noticed it...
That's pretty harsh.
KNOCK IT OFF, DAMN IT!
HRAGH!
For whatever reason, Aizawa-san isn't very talkative today.
...staring directly at me the whole time.
Aizawa-san was...
I never told him thanks for the drink...!
Did she notice that I found the movie boring?
I wonder if I did something wrong?
Even though he bought it for me in return for the ticket...!
BA-DUM
BA-DUM

It's gotten cold again.

職業としての小説家

*A Novelist by Profession by Haruki Murakami

Aizawa-san...

...what's that?

This?

I'm knitting gloves.

My brother gave me 300 yen* to make them.

He wanted them to look like the ones in a picture he gave me.

*about $2.75

I wanted something I could do...

...while you're concentrating on reading.

Recruiting members! Must be healthy and cheerful. —Gardening Club

To tell the truth, I'd rather be making something for Azuma-kun instead of my little brother...

...but if I do, I'll probably go back to being the "handmade goods" girl again.

Like the time with the cookies.

My hand?

I know! Let me see your hand.

Your hands are even bigger than my bro-ther's!

Wow!

You're so slender, but you're a man, after all!

BLUSH

...THAT SO?

IS...

OH.

O-

BLUSHHH

IT'S OKAY ...

S-

sorry...

JUMP

ビ…

ワッ!!

YOU TWO HAVING FUN FLIRTING?

ep. 11 The Tempest that is Romance

...what are you two doing?

So, on this fine day, in full view of the general public...

Hey, Azuma-kun...

Just now, you thought, "Aizawa-san is really cute when she's in such a good mood," right?

You wanted to hug her, right?

Quit that!

H-

HI, TAMAKI.

H-hello, Tamaki-kun.

Hello yourself.

Ah ha ha... Just kidding.

Sorry... I'm kind of at my wit's end over something, so I'm in a bad mood.

Your wit's end?

What could a popular person like you possibly be troubled about?

Well... thanks to the advice you both gave me before...

...I changed my hairstyle and my outlook, removing the first stone from the path leading away from my old, lukewarm life.

It's really troubling.

"I GUESS THAT'S FINE?" THEY SAY.

...but everyone still loves me.

oh, Tama-chan!

If anything, I'm even more popular now than before.

Tama!

Tamaki-!

Ah!

Ah!

All the girls just circled back on me.

A-AIZAWA-SAN?!

Something about that is really irritating.

Something about that is really irritating.

I don't get why they all like me so much...

I just don't understand girls.

Is it just because I'm good-looking with a little personality on top?

Sorry... It's just that whenever I talk to Tamaki-kun, I remember my old dog...

You know, sometimes you're unusually harsh towards Tamaki, Aizawa-san...

My silly Justine...

I loved that golden retriever.

Why does Tamaki look happy about this?

OH, IS IT? I'M SORRY!

WHICH PART?

MAYBE IT'S THE PART WHERE YOU EXPLOIT YOUR NAIVE CHARM TO HUMBLE-BRAG ABOUT HOW EVERYONE LIKES YOU!

They like me without me doing anything special.

Isn't it strange to fall in love over nothing?

I don't mind. In fact, I'm grateful.

I'd rather have a more normal relationship with all of them...

Do you have a crush on anyone, Tamaki-kun?

A crush?

I see what you mean.

It may be privileged of me to say, but being popular must be hard.

Even I want to put in a little effort now and then.

This boy is hopeless! He's unashamedly trying to create a harem!

There's no way I'd be able to choose just one!

I like all of them!

SMILE

ニコー

Hey. Isn't the problem on your end, then?

Rather than put in effort to make a large number of people fall out of love with you...

...I think it might be better to put in effort to get one specific person to like you.

A crush, huh?

Ah!

You think? Well... do you have a crush, Azuma-kun?

ドキッ

BA-DUM!

Not really, no.

Ah...

CRUSHED

キンコ

DING DOOOONG

ンー...

ooh, there's the bell.

A crush, huh...

Justine... thanks to you, I just experienced pointless heartbreak...

That's a...

...rather compelling point, isn't it...

It's the AV room next, right, Nozomin?

That's right, Hamarin.

Go on ahead without me. I have to carry some stuff for the teacher.

Want some help?

Nah. It's pretty light.

I'll catch up soon.

What's wrong, Tamaki? You look down.

I'm up against a brick wall...

Urgh... Sounds serious.

*SOCIAL STUDIES DEPT. STORAGE ROOM
社会準備室
*HARVEST FESTIVAL
収穫祭
How bright...
...and cheerful...
I envy them...
They seem so carefree.
People like that have it easy.
Excuse me...
...never mind. There's nobody here.
Lost & Found

Nah, this doesn't suit me at all.

If anybody saw me like this, I'd literally die.

SHK

Huh?

WHOOSH

Are you seri-ous? ∪

Why call me here, then?

...

Is Noro-sensei around?

I—

I—

I DON'T KNOW ?!

It's not mine.

I don't know anything about it.

Hey...

Um...

?!

You left this.

You think so?

I think it would look pretty good.

Do I look like the kind of person who'd own something like that?!

It wouldn't suit me at all!

Huh?

Weren't you just...

I realize now...

I was never even under conside-ration.

Well... do you have a crush, Azuma-kun?

Not really, no.

I wonder...

...did Azuma-kun completely forget that I even confessed to him?

I feel insecure...

In my own way...

...I tried my best to summon up my courage and confess, but...

Aah... he's so wonderful, even now...

THROB

キュ——ン

That's fine. I'll just keep watching him from afar and let my disastrous confession remain forgotten...

Ah!

Ah! It's Azuma-kun!

A-Aizawa-san!

Hey!

...I'm glad I worked up the courage to confess.

Ah... In the end...

BA-DUM ドキ

BA-DUM ドキ

BA-DUM ドキ...

FLUSHHHH ニャ

Huh?

Azuma-kun noticed me... Azuma-kun waved at me...

ENRAPTURED

GLOW

GLOW

Oh, I just thought I'd burn this vista into my very heart so I'd never forget it as long as I live...

Hm?

Sounds kinda scary, but you seem to be having fun.

じ？

STARE

Aizawa-san!

Tamaki-kun?

What are you doing in a place like this?

You know, Aizawa-san...

...I must have chosen this hairstyle to drive everyone away.

...I think, at least in part...

Scary?

What about you, Tamaki-kun? It's rare to see you alone.

What happened to your friends?

Oh, um...

A teacher called for me alone.

But nobody took it that way.

When I thought about it, I realized that...

...inexcusably...

I thought that that wasn't a very good way to live, so I tried to change...

...I always relied on the people around me to do everything for me.

It is, isn't it?

I'm drowning in it!

That hair of yours, though...

That's proof of your courage, Tamaki-kun.

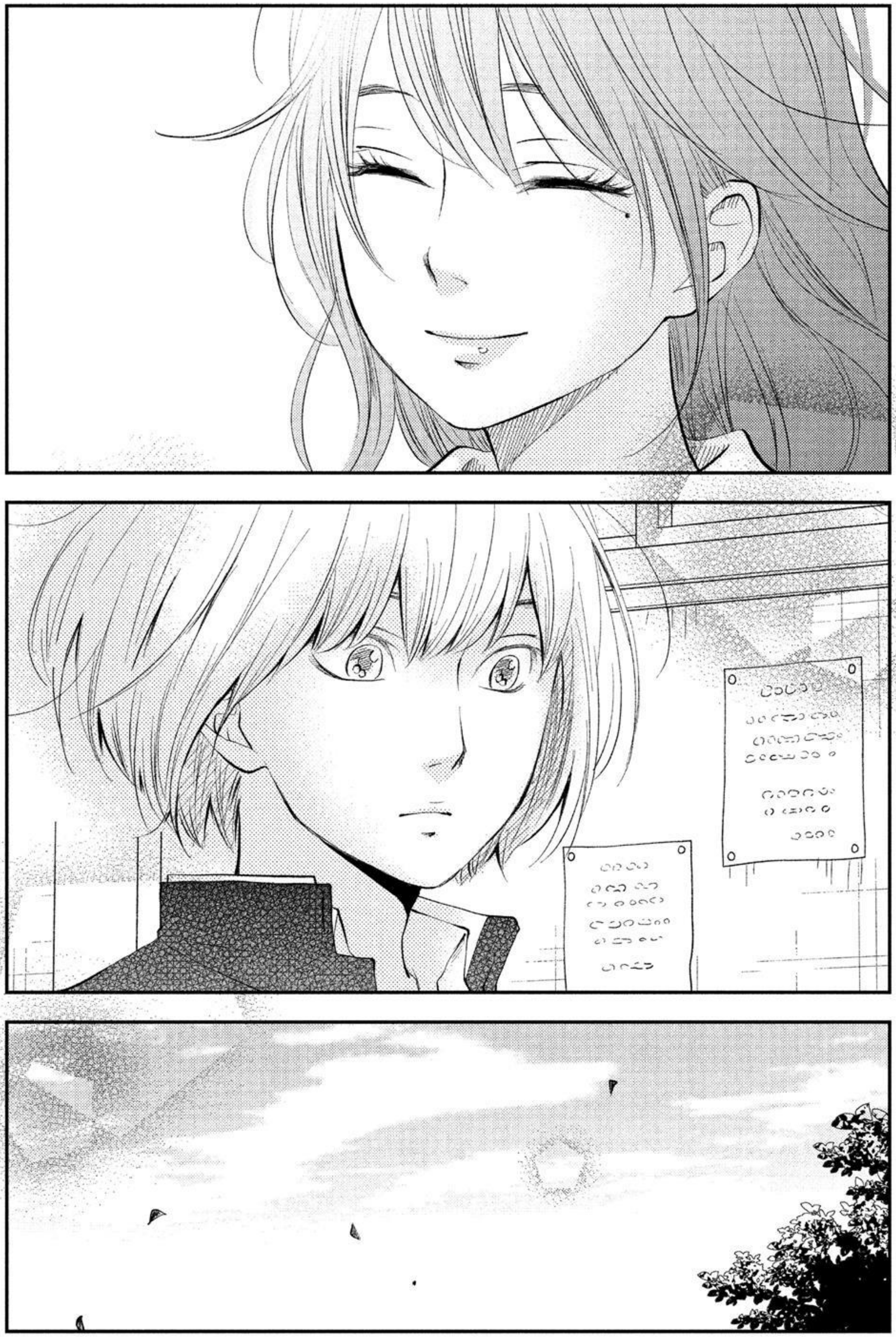
So now I'm just basking in the glow of everyone showering me with affection and attention!

But in the end, you can't change human nature!

THAT'S JUST THE LUKEWARM-NESS WE DISCUSSED BEFORE!

I think...

...your hair looks great.



*The Minds of Billy Milligan
by Daniel Keyes

It's gotten cold again.

I'm sorry. I hope I'm not disturbing your reading.

No, don't worry. I was just about to start my lunch, anyway.

Hey, Azuma-kun!

Aizawa-san...

That scarf...

It looks really nice.

Yeah... I got it from my aunt last year.

It was a little chilly this mor-ning...

I wouldn't want you to catch cold, Azuma-kun.

...we won't really be able to use the courtyard.

...

Once it gets even colder...

In that case...

...we'd better think about another change of venue.

Don't worry.

I know...

...just the place.

OH! THAT'S RIGHT!

We just need to meet somewhere else!

Azuma-kun, you're a genius!

She's so cute...

URK!

YOU TWO HAVING FUN FLIRTING?

Hello, Tamaki-kun.

Have you come to a conclusion about your problem?

Just now, you thought Aizawa-san was really cute again, right?

What do you think?

... Shut up.

Hm?

Hmm...

Well...

Yeah.

More or less.

When you think about the size of the universe...

...my problems don't seem very big at all.

GLOW

GLOW

GLOW

...

Thank you, Tamaki-kun.

Oh! What's wrong, Aizawa-san? Do you have a stomach ache?

Want some ginger?

No, I'm fine. Thank you, Tamaki-kun.

I'm right next to Azuma-kun! I'm right next to Azuma-kun!

BLUUUUSH!

GLOW

GLOW

Huh?

Love happens according to the beat of its own whimsical drum...

Our Precious Conversations *continues!*

The no-holds-barred love battle begins now!

To be continued in volume three!


Tamaki's bodyguards
from Class one
LOVE♡TA
TAMAKI IS LIFE

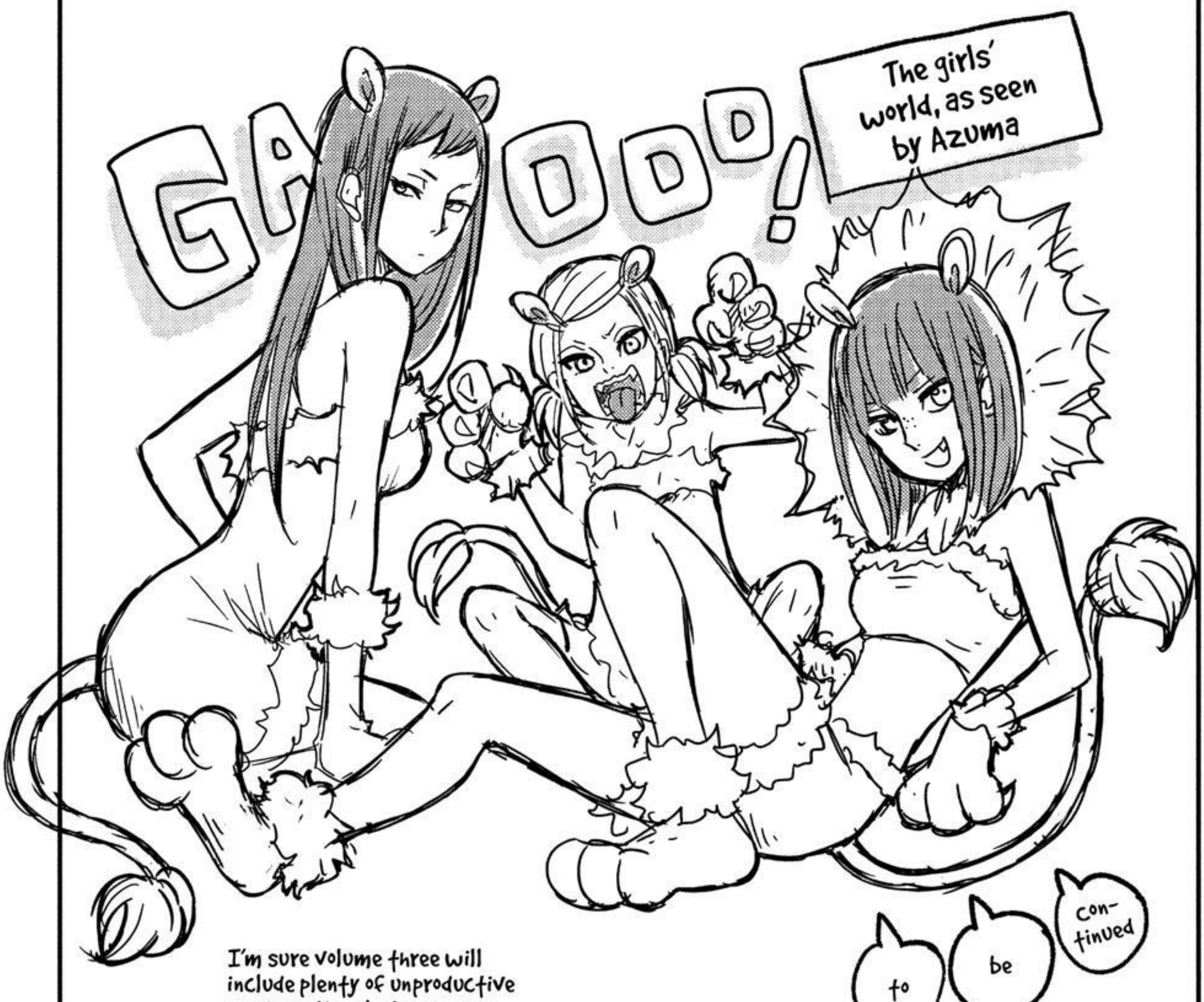

THE MAN CALLED TAMAKI
CRUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
Even though I'm at school, I can eat snacks or not do my homework, and nobody wants to scold me...
If this keeps up, I'll turn out rotten for sure.
Be really harsh on me.
Hey, can you be strict with me for a bit?
...
Don't ask me to do it. Just do it yourself.
All I care about is your looks.
Aah, I told you to scold me, not praise me!
Oh? You like how I look that much?
See? Whatever I say to you is going to bounce off that positive attitude of yours.


I wonder how he does his hair...
Like I'm saying, clockwise is good, sure, but sometimes counter-clockwise is the way to go.
CHIPS

AFTERWARD

Thank you very much for purchasing volume two!

I'm really relieved we were able to release it without a hitch.



If we can meet again in volume three, it would make me very happy.

Someday, some month, somewhere.

Robico

In the next volume of Our Precious Conversations...

What will the setting of volume three be?

Azuma-kun...

The next place is going to be a calm one, so by all means, let's continue having conversations.

I can't tell you yet, but...

HOLD UP!

SLAM

There's no way you two'll be left alone!

Azuma! You yourself said it back in volume one...

Just the two of us.

ドキ

THROB

That's narration text! I didn't say it, I only thought it!

How do you know about that?!

No!

That was...

But the author is being wishy-washy.

If it were up to me, Nonomi would like not just the male lead, but also background characters boy A and boy B, and on top of that, boy C and boy D would themselves be in love with Nonomi!

That would be sure to sell millions!

The new characters should be involved, too. You have to make a strong impact!

Azuma-kun's problematic words from volume one

Right?

The head of editorial said we could put whatever we want in the preview!

THAT DEFEATS THE PURPOSE OF A "PREVIEW"!

I'd like to see the bond between us deepen.

I hope there's more about the friendship between me and Nozomin in volume three...

If only we put in more effort...

Ugh. So what? What do you want us to put here?

IRRITATED

I'D REALLY LIKE TO HAVE SOME PROGRESS, PLEASE!

GROAN

AT THE VERY LEAST, IF NOTHING ELSE...

What will happen in the no-holds-barred love battle of volume three?!

OUR Precious CONVERSATIONS ③



Our Precious Conversations 2

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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OUR Precious CONVERSATIONS 3



ROBICO

Our Precious Conversations

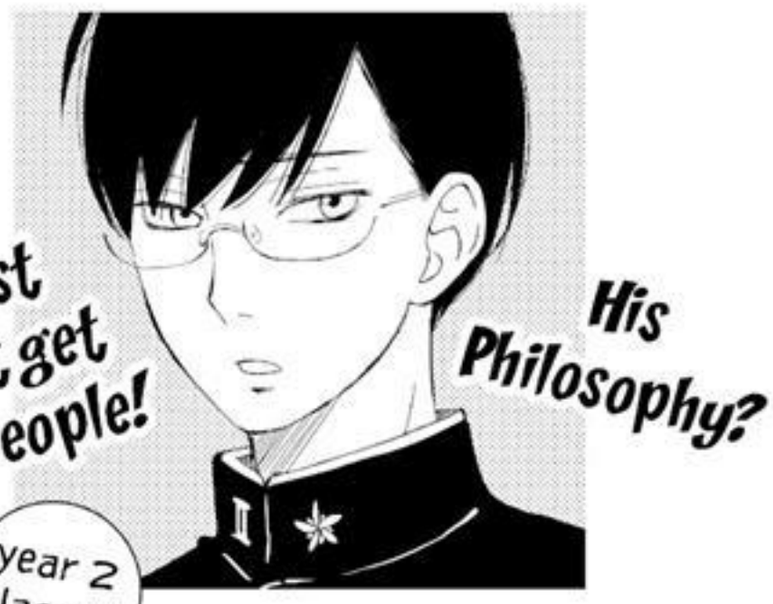
3

Presented by Robiko

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character



Shiro Azuma

This is the boy Aizawa-san bared her heart to. They seem to be getting along well enough now...he thinks...



Nozomi Aizawa

A second-year high school student. After pining for Azuma-kun for ages, she finally worked up the courage to tell him she has feelings for her, but...



Marin Hamada

Aizawa-san's close friend and the president of the lit club. Her nickname is Hamarin. She likes Aizawa-san so much, it's beginning to complicate matters...!



Kazuomi Tamaki

The most popular guy at school. He came to Azuma-kun and Aizawa-san with his problems, and somehow or another...decided this haircut was the answer to them.

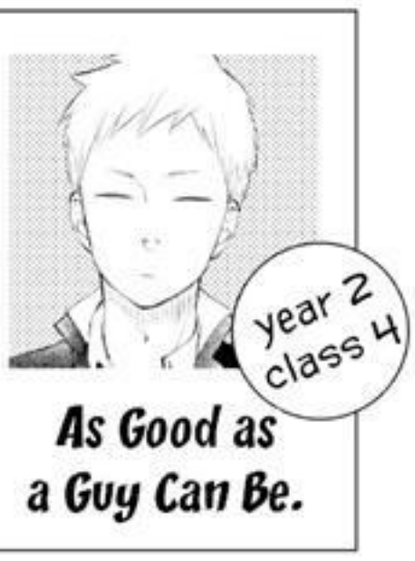


and more...

...And the Rest of the Gang

Caffeine

Azuma-kun's friend. His girlfriend cheated on him, then dumped him.



As Good as a Guy Can Be.

story

Nozomi Aizawa had been pining in secret for her schoolmate, Azuma-kun, for quite some time...but she finally worked up the courage to tell him how she feels! But she just can't seem to catch a break now. He spurned her advances as "wrong," saw her panties, and even nitpicked the hand-made gifts she'd put so much work into! Undaunted, she continued to converse with Azuma-kun daily, and the two slowly grew closer...until, finally, Azuma-kun gave her the okay to strike up conversation at school! Now, they spend their lunch hours together... and they're about to get together somewhere *really* nice!

ep. 12 What is "OMG!", exactly?

LOVE...

It is a double-edged sword that cuts wielder as readily as foe.

The unfortunate youths who have lost themselves in this swamp are now trapped there!

It is a hellish swamp, the likes of which makes those who fall into it lose their senses.

Let us now open the curtains on this so-called no-holds-barred love battle!

A word of congratulations to our Choral Ensemble for winning their first competition.

Great job, everyone!

It is now lunch break.

*Trembling Love

Thanks again.

This volume was also quite entertaining.

*An Overwhelming OMG!

*A Tempestuous OMG Development!

*QUIZ KING

I didn't think she would go for a harem-style development... That takes a lot of courage for a newbie.

Gachiko Yumemi-sensei is the real deal.

Right? ♡ It's really OMG, isn't it? ♡

A story can't succeed just by following tropes!

To do so is to further aim for financial failure!

That's right! As aspiring writers ourselves, we too must boldly advance amidst controversy!

第2理科準備室

*CULINARY SUPPLY ROOM #2

Is that how it is...?

BUT ISN'T THAT THE MOST OMG♡ THING EVER?!

I do wonder about how successful the story can be after even the main character's younger brother falls for her, though...

Nonomi's charm is too strong.

RIGHT?! IT'S LIKE, THE MORE OBSTACLES TO THEIR LOVE, THE MORE OMG♡ IT IS!



SQUEAL きゃっ

SQUEAL きゃっ

Azuma-sempai! Please let us lend you the new volume, too!

SQUEAL
きゃっ
SQUEAL
きゃっ
*High School
QUIZ KING
*Championship
高校生
クイズ王
選手権
This is the Literature Club.
But the mood here... It doesn't feel like it's just the two of us at all anymore!
SIZZ
SIZZ
It's true ...that we're indoors and out of the cold now... There's even a stove for tea.
Although, this way I get to see a side of him I had never seen before!
POUT
ぷぅ～
POUT
ぷぅ～
カーッ
SHHH
...and how this has dashed them onto the cold, hard ground?!
Does he?!
"Don't worry. I know just the place."
Does he even realize the heights those words took my hopes ...

*Trembling Love

I'm just warning you, this is club time.

Don't be disruptive.

Remember our mutual non-interference pact.

Miss President! Hello!

...

Hama-rin!

You're here again, Azuma?

Sure, I guess.

And with Nozomin?

*The Martian Chronicles by Ray Bradbury

Nozomin is watching me!

FIDGET

FIDGET

I have to present my best presidential face!

Hey, Azuma-kun... Isn't this the culinary supply room?

Why does the Literature Club meet here?

Well... I heard their normal club room was stolen by another club.

Let's get this meeting started!

SUPER PSYCHED

Okay!

Originally, I'd scoped this room out myself...

...and the girls came after.

I see...

It is close to the library.

Since then, we've shared the space under a mutual non-interference pact.

Miss President!

You could say that.

More than that, we're bona fide *friends!*

Yessiree!

AMAZING, MISS PRESIDENT!

So is Azuma-sempai going out with Aizawa-sempai?

WHISPER

That's Aizawa-sempai from year two, isn't it?

Do you know her, Miss President?

Hm?

No way.

What's that?

LOOK! EVERYONE, COME TO ORDER, PLEASE!

D-DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!

IT'S CUTE! IT'S SO CUTE!

Why the big change, Miss President?

MISS PRESIDENT, YOU'RE VERY STYLISH TODAY!

Wh—?!

SIZZ

SIZZ

Oh!

HA HA... YOU EXAG-GERATE, OF COURSE.

THIS SEASONING! THIS WOULD MAKE ANY RICE BALL FEEL LIKE A CARIBBEAN JEWELRY BOX!

THEY'RE SO GOOD!

Your metaphor escapes me.

Eee!

You showed me a picture of some daikon radish pickles you had made once, so I thought you might like them.

Oh, yes! May I?

Hey, Aizawa-san!

My grandmother on my mother's side gave me these pickles. Would you care to try them together?

Pickles?

Here!

Your half.

Come on! Be honest!

Psh

I don't want it.

I'd rather have this one.

OMG!

II

恋するころころ

7

*Trembling Love

Aizawa-san...

...what exactly is **OMG**?

...but girls seem to use "OMG!" about as freely as "cute!"

I understand that much...

I feel like there might be gaps in my under-standing.

Azuma-kun said, "OMG!"

OMG?

OMG! キュン

It's that feeling when your heart stops and you're totally taken aback.

W...what about you, Azuma-kun?

ドキ BA-DUM

ドキ BA-DUM

Does anything a girl does make you go OMG?

Now that I think about it, OMG is a pretty useful word, isn't it?

Aggres-sive...?

Here, let me see.

BA-DUM ドキ

Wow! The boy here is being really aggressive! Definitely an OMG moment.

...

Me, go OMG?

NO. I DON'T THINK SO.

Well, I suppose it happens with comics from time to time...

So, an OMG moment from a girl, right?

Heh heh...

I think men have less sensitivity to these things than women.

You don't?!

But generally, I'd say boys don't have that reaction.

For example, if a boy gave a girl candy, I imagine she'd say, "OMG!"

But a boy receiving candy from a girl would go, "Why did she give this to me?"

*Trembling Love

Boys are especially bad with actions where the meaning or motive is unclear.

"Why was I given this snack?" The underlying motive would consume all thought.

Huh?

You wouldn't even feel happy, or thankful?

That's only because he's such an optimist.

ONE PIECE!

THAT'S TOO MUCH!

HE WAS ONLY GIVEN ONE PIECE OF CANDY!

It's just good manners to share!

I would estimate that maybe 90% of Japanese men would have a similar reaction.

Myself included.

Keisuke, for instance, would go from "A girl gave me candy" to "Why did she give me candy?" to "She probably likes me."

WHAAAT?!

Yes...

Candy from girls doesn't mean anything.

Smiling at me or speaking with me doesn't indicate personal interest.

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

I was forced to learn the hard way back in my junior high days **that it usually doesn't have any deeper meaning.**

...

My feelings make it different!

If our eyes meet, I'm already imagining our wedding!

For me, I want to talk to him because he's the one I like!

GET AHOLD OF YOURSELF, AZUMA-KUN! THAT'S JUST YOUR PERSECUTION COMPLEX TALKING!

YOU MUST'VE HAD A TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE BEFORE, RIGHT?!

NO, NONE! I WAS MERELY HURT FAR TOO MUCH BY TRIVIAL THINGS!

IF OUR EYES MEET, IT'S ONLY BECAUSE SHE THINKS I'M DISGUSTING!

Aah! やっ

COUGH コホン

Well. Moving on...

Eee!

...not that I would ever admit that!

She's so cute...

BA-DUM ドキ

Here, let me see.

Boys are more concerned with the physical, and especially the visual...

A boy's OMG is going to be a far simpler creature compared to a girl's...

Hm...?

Hm?

Hm?

...

And they have trouble with meaningless actions...

Hmm...

Okay...

I've learned something today!

Maybe there were times...

So boys don't really have OMG reactions?

Hmm... I see!

Azuma-kun already explained it! He was given the pickles, and that's why he had them.

No, Nozomi! Don't get your hopes up!

There's no deeper meaning...

In that case...

...what was this all about?

Nozomi...

This is a taste of the pickles my family prepares.

Please treasure it.

CRACK!

Shiro-san...

I want to eat the pickles you make for the rest of my life...

Until you are one hundred years young... Until I am ninety-nine...

Eeeeeeeeeee!

Eeeee!

Hm?

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

HUFF

HUFF

Aizawa-san?

Is something the matter?

N... no...

It's nothing...

BLUSH

She's so cute...

SLAM

Ouch!

Wake up, Shiro! Don't fall prey to these womanly deceptions!

What was that for?

No matter how cute the girl before you may be, it has no significance to your life whatsoever!

Are you all right?

Aaaah! I have no idea what she's talking about, but she's so cute!

An impact that powerful could break even a stone pickle weight!

I can't do it! I can't look at you any longer!

Argh! What are you doing to me, Aizawa-san?!

Although ...

Although ...!

You were just imagining things!

Calm yourself, Nozomi!

Azuma-kun...

These pickles...

...do you have the recipe for them?

NO!

I—!

MY GRAND-MOTHER PURCHASED THEM VIA MAIL ORDER!

Um...

Oh!

Never mind...

I just let my romantic imagination get away from me.

...about pickles?

Er?

She always orders way too many.

Mail order ...

ず

CRUSHED

I... I see...

Those cucumber ones are my favorite...

I buy them all the time. I bet if I ask the shop, they'd tell me.

MUNCH もぐ CRUNCH もぐ MUNCH もぐ CRUNCH もぐ GULP

ぱく CHOMP

Uh?

Your favorites, you said?

Um... Yeah.

Those ones are from a local pickle shop.

I've been a regular there for years, so if I asked...

You must really like these!

Want me to show you how they're made?

They're quite delicious.

I'd love to know the recipe.

DIING

DOOONG

Oh! The bell.

All right.

I pro-mise.

I'm glad Aizawa-san is back to normal...

BA-DUM ドキ

ドキ BA-DUM

Azuma-kun!

I never imagined she liked pickles this much...

Your enjoyment is thanks enough.

It was nothing.

MURMUR

Thank you.

For the pickles.

ザワ MURMUR

Hm?

I'm glad you enjoyed this.

This is my favorite place in the world.

I wanted to share it with you so you could enjoy it, as well.

Ah...

Anywhere is okay...

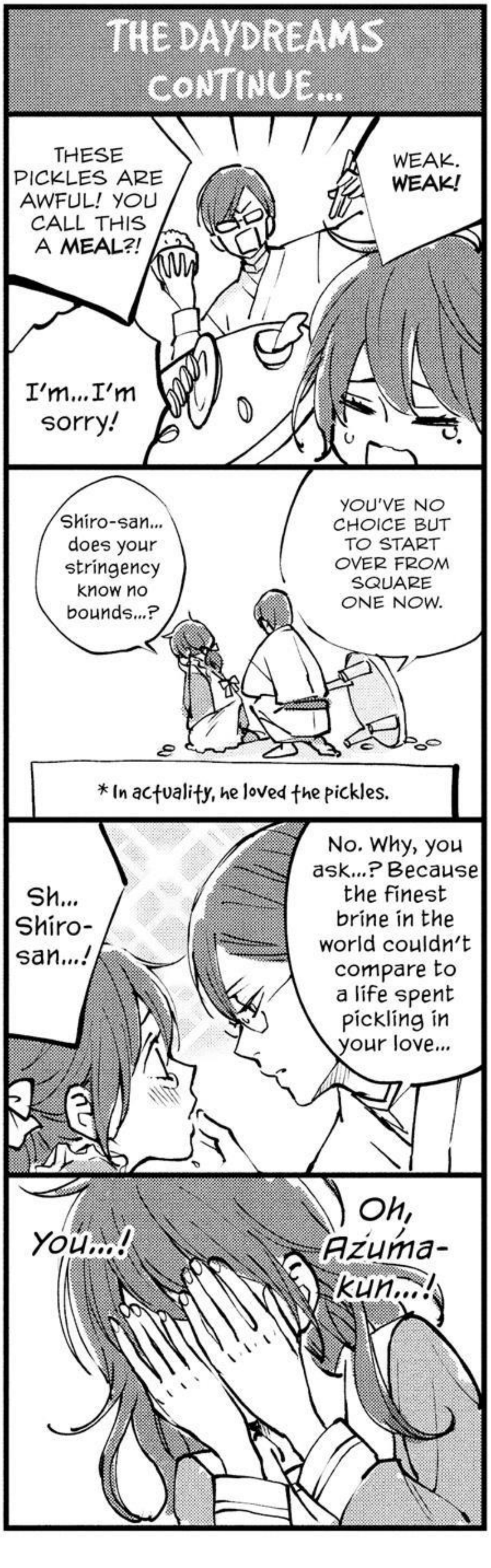
...as long as I'm with you.

...that was definitely an OMG...

DIIING

DOOONG


Meanwhile, at the Lit club...
What do you want me to do, dumb down my work for the masses ?!
I'm telling you, the average customer's not gonna get that!
We don't have time for this!
...they're skirmishing over the content of their next journal.


THE DAYDREAMS CONTINUE...
THESE PICKLES ARE AWFUL! YOU CALL THIS A MEAL?!
WEAK. WEAK!
I'm...I'm sorry!
Shiro-san... does your stringency know no bounds...?
YOU'VE NO CHOICE BUT TO START OVER FROM SQUARE ONE NOW.
* In actuality, he loved the pickles.
Sh... Shiro-san...!
No. Why, you ask...? Because the finest brine in the world couldn't compare to a life spent pickling in your love...
You...!
Oh, Azuma-kun...!


Nozomi...
AAAH!
あーっ
GASP
びく
あああああ
WAAAGH!

I got to talk a lot with Azuma-kun today!

Hm hm hm...

Hm hm hm...

What's this?

CLANG CLANG

Who the heck are you?

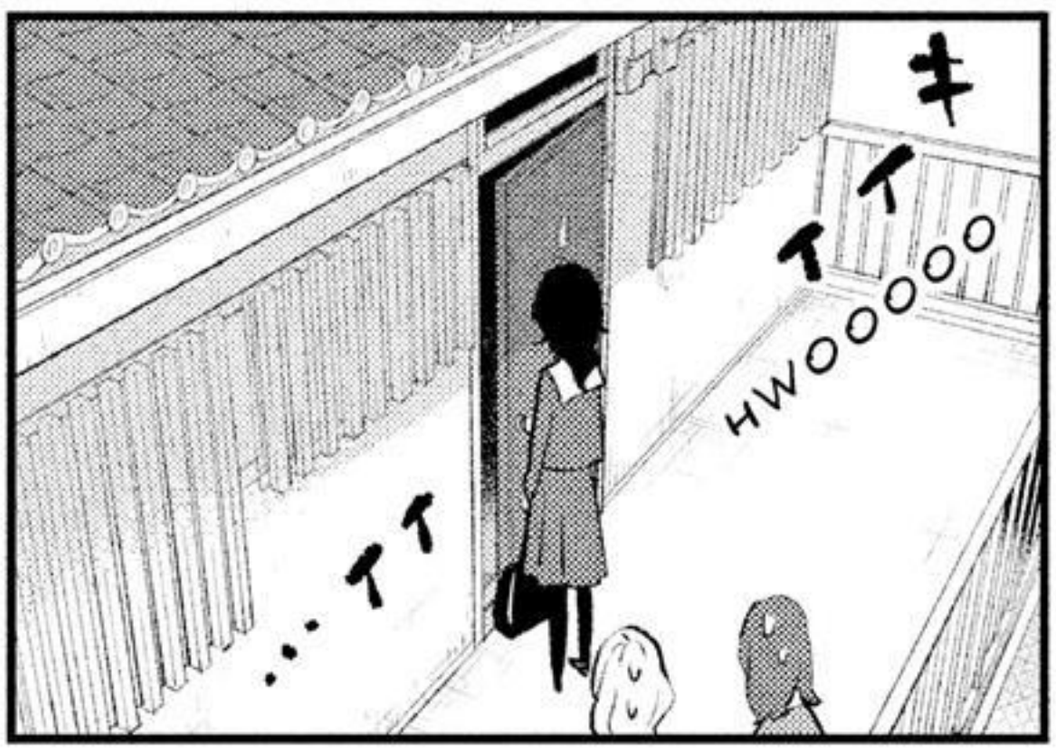
I'm his girl-friend!

As if! I'm the one dating him!

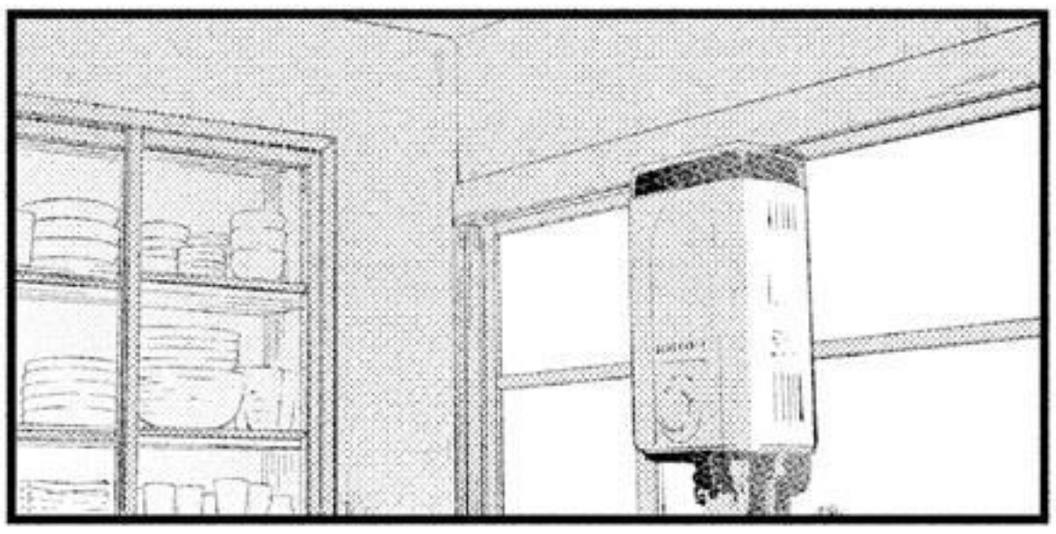
Oh!

...and who are you?

No way! Is Ryuji dating you, too?!


HWOOOOO


I'm his sister.




And what's with all the racket outside?
It's been going on a while now.
What d'you want? I told you not to open that door.
SLIDE
Ryuji ...


GET BENT.

ep. 13 | Will you fall in love with me?

...so, that's what happened.

*Rich Dad Poor Dad by Robert Kiyosaki

If the point of this section is unclear, you won't get your message across.

Like I was saying, it's not clear why he's saying that.

When I asked about it, he said he wasn't dating either of them. This kind of thing happens all the time...

As his older sister, I'm worried about him.

Wish that were me...

Is your brother really that popular with women?

S... sorry.

JUMP

SHOCK

くわっ

What are you saying?! Do you *want* to make women cry?!

You'll never be a respectful adult with that attitude!

WHAT? WHY?!

The struggles of being popular...

Why was she angry at me?

Sigh... Why is my brother so flaky, I wonder?

At this rate, the floor of our apartment is going to fall out...

YOU USED TO ALWAYS GO WITH ME!

I know. I'm sorry.

WHY?! WHY WON'T YOU?!

FORGET IT! I HATE YOU, TAMAKI!

ズバッ

JUMP

AAH!

SHE'S CRYING NOW.

YOU MADE HER CRY.

CULINARY SUPPLY ROOM #2

第2理科準

And so...

YOU'RE SUCH A FLAKE.

YOU'RE SO FLAKY.

why are you in there?

OH. WHAT'S UP, YOU TWO?

Me, flaky? I think you misunder-stand.

I was just invited to the donut shop...

Um? What the heck?

Kazuomi Tamaki-kun! Would you mind answering a few questions for us?

...we have here with us one flaky boy:

Huh. Beats me.

...

What's he doing here?!

WHISPER

MURMUR

This time it's the prince! Prince Tamaki from year two!

M-Miss President!

WHISPER

MURMUR

Eh?

Tamaki...

I'M CONFIDENT IN MY ABILITY TO BE FLAKY!

okay, then... firstly...

Aw, man... I'm terrible at these kinds of difficult questions.

But these two are counting on me...

...is frightened of Aizawa-san?

He's been acting strangely for a while now...

Perhaps, he...

第45回 高校生映画祭

ポ

FUZZY

FUZZY

ポ

Huh... I'm feeling a little under the weather...

There's no chance his responses won't anger her.

You're referring to what other people request of me, aren't you?

Hmm... That's rather difficult.

Firstly, might I ask why you feel entitled to be involved with multiple girls simultaneously?

That's only natural. Forcing this topic on him is like leading a lamb to the slaughter...

Thoughts and actions that make girls cry

I SUPPOSE IT'S BECAUSE I HAVE NO PARTICULAR REASON TO REFUSE AN ADVANCE.

All right. As a fellow man, I'll act as his lifeboat by bailing him out with more reasonable—

It might be true that when a girl falls in love, her interest in other potential suitors drops to nothing...

...but for boys, even if one's current partner is a perfect fit, it doesn't necessarily mean that his interest in other people is gone.

He...he walked right into it?!

If there's any question of a potential partner liking me back, well, these girls already like me, so...

A boy will never be certain that his partner is "the one."

I MIGHT AS WELL ACCEPT!

IF THEY'RE OFFERING...

Look out, Tamaki! She's gone stone cold!

第45回 高校生映画

Did... did that help?

I see...

It's different if you find someone you really like, though!

SWEAT

SWEAT

If you find someone you like enough that you can't look away!

What ?!

I've never seriously dated anyone, so I don't really know.

I sup-pose.

THAT'S RIGHT!

Of course it'd be different if you really liked the person.

But until that happens, you're play-ing with a whole bunch of girls at once, right?

AND WITH-
OUT THEIR
KNOWLEDGE
OR CONSENT,
OF COURSE.

That's the issue, isn't it...

If you fall in love, yes?

Well, of course, if I do fall in love, I'll definitely change...

I can't even imagine him falling in love with someone...

Perhaps someone like that already exists...

Some-one your brother likes.

What do you mean?

Men usually come to a sudden realization about these things.

At first, a boy won't be certain as to whether or not he likes someone.

Even when attracted, he cannot be certain whether it's merely an attraction of the lower body or something deeper.

But as things gradually progress...

...a day will come when something provokes a sudden realization: he does, in fact, love her.

I see...

That sounds so romantic...

...the lower body?

In contrast...

...girls operate more on a point system.

So, I have these four aunts...

And they always build up quickly, too..

ESPECIALLY FOR NOT HAVING EVER DATED ONE!

I've witnessed what happens when my aunts max someone out on anger points more times than I can count.

AMAZ-ING, AZUMA-KUN!

YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT WOMEN!

The point system I'm describing can be extremely terrifying in the opposite direction, as well.

Essentially, a girl will examine the cards she's been dealt and choose from among them.

A suitor who makes her happy or relaxed will gradually gain her affections.

Even someone with whom the chemistry just isn't there, if they build up enough affection points, she will come to love them.

Also, just because someone is hot, it feels nice to be around them, which means they rack up a ton of affection points even right from the starting line...

WOW! IT SOUNDS SO HARD TO FALL IN LOVE!

YEAH, WHEN FALLING IN LOVE, NAVIGATING THESE HURDLES IS TO BE EXPECTED.

I CAN'T IMAGINE MYSELF DROWNING IN PASSION, EITHER!

I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE FALLING IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE!

第45回 高校生映

ha

ha

ha

ha

LOVE IS ENTIRELY INTUITIVE.

NO, YOU'RE WRONG.

45回 高校生映画祭

FUME ふーん

Azuma-kun completely forgot about my confession.

RUMBLE

Wh... what's this?

Is she angry?

Love isn't some sort of game where you score points.

RUMBLE

It's something you feel in your heart.

RUMBLE

I understand now.

SEETHE ムカ

But... if I say it again now...

SEETHE ムカ

SEETHE ムカ

If I told him I loved him again... but I can't!

第45回 高校生映画

I really want to, but I can't!

If you have something on your mind, it might be better to talk about it.

Are you all right, Aizawa-san?

...she looks mad. I'd better leave her be.

Oh, no, I'm fine, Tamaki-kun.

Thank you, though.

...

HMPH

I never said everyone was like that.

I was merely expressing my point of view.

HMPH

I do think ...

...Azuma-kun has too big of a head.

第45回 高校生映画祭

Even if, I admit, some girls are satisfied merely with those who are nice to them...

...not everyone is like that.

If I could rewind a bit...

Thinking about the girls around me...

...I think I might just like all of them.

Are you even serious?

Isn't that the same as saying you don't like any of them?

I guess.

What about you, Azuma-kun?

!

Do you like, say, Aizawa-san?

Uh.

祭

...

I...

Um
...

Not
parti-
cularly
...

After all...

...I'm not nearly as close to him as the girls in his class.

Azuma! Buy me a drink!

Azuma! Do the cleaning for me.

Azuma! Buy me a cro-quette.

After all, I'm just a scary, dark, unapproach-able girl, like everyone says...

CLENCH

I see...

Of course.

He doesn't even think well enough of me to bother remembering my confession, after all.

...is nothing more than—

To Azuma-kun...

...a girl like me...

To...

To me...

...she's the only girl...

...I can talk to freely.

...

OH, THERE'S THE BELL!

WE'D BETTER GET TO CLASS!

I see... I see!

DIING DOOOONG

THANK YOU, AZUMA-KUN!

I'M GLAD WE TALKED TODAY!

I see!

We kind of forgot about her brother, didn't we...

You're leaving your friend behind?

She told me to go on ahead.

Falling in love?

...it's not entirely logical, is it?

I sup-pose ...

I'm sure ...

...even if you want to fall in love with someone, it's not something you can control.

Well ...

You might have a point.

I was a bit frus-trated, so my response was overly critical.

No.

Yeah...

I agree with that.





Hey!

Where were you, Tamaki?!

Huh?

What's with your expression?

It's nothing, really...

Hey.

Did something happen?

Okay. I'll do my best.

HA HA HA HA

WELL, CHEER UP! TODAY WE WERE ASKED OUT BY A GROUP OF COLLEGE GIRLS!

Tamaki!

Tamaki!

A day will come...

...when you realize you're in love, I was told...

The next day...

...Aizawa-san took it upon herself to stop the bloodshed.

I'm sorry... I don't think my brother understands his own true feelings.

キ"キ"キ"CREEEEAK

Please, go talk with him if you like.

STOP IT, YOU NASTY WOMAN!


Take your little lover's quarrel outside, hmm?
I said, I didn't do anything...!
CLLLENCH
Oh, brother of mine...do you have any idea just how much I fret over the floors in this apartment?


A TIMID GIRL
Huh? isn't your friend coming?
Just as they were leaving ...
Nah. She said to run along without her.
Scary hot guy... Scary hot guy... Scary hot guy...!
His powerful aura repelled poor Hamarin.
I can't be seen walking with him!
His Sparkly Aura
TIIING!
ピカー
waaah!
My eyes!
?

ep. 14 The Lit Girl Dances Alone in Her Tower

I've read about it in dozens of books.

I understand what love is.

Once you start looking for it, you notice it's absolutely everywhere.

And, like, that's when he said to me...

I love you, Ma-kun! ♡

Even if I block out my surround-ings...

...my very mind is filled with thoughts of it.

It's foolish.

It's ridiculous!

CAFFEINE!

You'll never catch me like that.

Love.

How embar-rassing it is!

#7 MURMUR

#7 MURMUR

#7 MURMUR

#7 MURMUR

第2理科準備室

CULINARY SUPPLY ROOM #2

So, I already got some pointers from Miss President, but...

...there are still a few things that aren't quite coming together.

The One I Love
Heiwadai High School 1st Year
Mika Tamura

I know I've said this before, but do you really want a boy like me to comment on a girls' comic?

Of course! You've read *Trembling Love*, haven't you?

I'm prepared even for harsh criticism!

Is that so? Very well...

Do you think you could look it over for me, Azuma-sempai?

The sub-mission deadline is soon, so I'd especially like to know about any rough bits.

...

There are also some inconsis-tencies between here, here, and here...

I don't understand why this boy even wants to talk to the protagonist.

There's too much exposition and not enough real content.

The intro is too long.

Did- did you have to go that far?!

WH- WHAAAT?

LOOK, ANYBODY CAN BE A NIT-PICKER!

YOU'VE GOTTA POINT OUT TEN GOOD THINGS FOR EVERY FLAW, OKAY?

YOU KNOW WHAT? NEVER MIND! IT'S MY FAULT FOR DRAWING SOMETHING DUMB!

I JUST WON'T SUBMIT IT!

おあああああああWAAAAAH!

WH- WHAAAT?

Hey, come on.

*Special BIG Bacon Knots

Are you giving up just because of some criticism?

限定BIG ベーコンピザ

MISS PRESI-DENT!

RATTLE

RATTLE

So there are people who draw comics in the Literature Club, too?

Yeah. They ask me for advice sometimes like that, but...

...it's a difficult prospect.

Look, look! We got the limited-edition special bacon knots!

Thanks, Azuma. You're really keeping my girls in line.

You can do it!...

Not at all. I'm just sorry I can't be of more help.

Constructively commenting on another's work is a fine line.

チグリスとユーフラテス

Tigris and Euphrates by Motoko Arai

I don't know... Maybe she's trying to stay out of her club members' way?

WHISPER WHISPER

...why is she reading over here?

What about our mutual noninterference pact?

Hey, Azuma.

Do you guys not get along?

Huh?

I mean...

...with the girls in your class.

Hm...?

Oh! You mean what happened during second break?

When Azuma and the rest of Class Four got a little heated during their card game, right?

BAM! EAT IT, KEISUKE!

WASN'T THERE A FIGHT OR SOMETHING TODAY?

Hey, remember that thing from karaoke yesterday?

Pah ha ha

What, me again?!

Buy us drinks!

Ha ha ha! You suck, Keisuke!

...and we ended up all going to karaoke together.

Oh, when school let out, I was texting Nakagawa...

Karaoke?

Nakagawa

Kudo

Nanashima

Hachigasaki

You're really bad at cards, aren't you?

Keisuke

AND I WASN'T INVITED?

H...hey, now!

It's not a big deal! Let's just go out again some-time!

Okay?

...what?

PERK

Eh?...

You did! And karaoke took, like, two hours.

Oh, um... Nana, didn't you say you had stuff to do yesterday?

...

That's just like you, Kudo-chan...

MUMBLE

YOU ONLY EVER THINK ABOUT YOURSELF, HACCHAN!

W...

Whoa, whoa, whoa!

RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE

...what?

Hey, y'all. I'm back from the store.

ZZA!!

UGH!

CRASH

!!

No, Caffeine! Stay away! Save yourself!

You'll get caught in the crossfire!

Hm!

Kei-suke!

Calm down, you guys! We're all friends, right?

Come on! Gimme some smiles!

SHUT UP, MOP-HEAD!

YOUR KARAOKE PERFOR-MANCES ARE CRAP ANYWAY!

YAAAAY!

CHOCOLATE!

SCATTER

SCATTER

Hey, now, don't fight! Have some chocolate instead!

...

I just happened to see.

That's amazing, Aizawa-san! It's like you were there the whole time!

That, right?

...so, they call him Caffeine?

You think so?

I think it would look pretty good.

Quarrels between women quickly become lawless battles to the death...

Caffeine really saved us when he did that.

Well, it's not like I care or anything, you know?

It just surprised me to see him this morning.

I didn't expect him to be a friend of Azuma's, though.

Huh?

Do you know him, Nozomin?

Who, Caffeine-kun? Yeah. He's really nice.

The other day, he let me have the last of the sale breads.

...

SHAKE SHAKE

I just said I didn't care, okay?!

MUNCH

CRUNCH

もぐもぐ

I've got to hand it to Caffeine-kun!

I mean, using sweets to rein in the girls like that!

What's his deal?! A boring old (-_-) face like that, and he thinks he can set his sights that high?!

RRRRRGH!

But this is Nozomin we're talking about! I'm a girl, and even I'm in love with her!

Is it possible that...

...he has a crush on Nozomin?!

Nozomi likes you, idiot! What the hell are you dilly-dallying around for?!

If you two get together, I'll kill you, though!

...

うす…

FIDGET

Hm?

FIDGET

うす…

GLARE

And then there's that goddamn Azuma!

Fury Mode

WHISPER

By the way, Caffeine-kun supports the idea of a relationship between me and Azuma-kun!

!

Well, that makes sense. He wouldn't be into Nozomin with a blank face (-_-) like that!

Yeah! He's a good guy after all!

EHE

ウキ

ウキ

EHEHE

And I guess his looks aren't exactly terrible...

He's pretty tall, too...

BRIGHTEN

O-OH!

I see!

Yes. I don't need to concern myself with such things.

"I think it would look pretty good."

I just want to know what kind of person would say such a thing...

Speaking of Caffeine-kun...

What am I doing, thinking of other people like that?!

Ah!

The garden of a pure maiden's heart should be untroubled by such trivialities.

What about me...?

Who likes who, who looks good or bad...

I wonder what happened with him and his girlfriend after that.

girlfriend

...

?!

H—

his

That's scary! Him having a GF is scary!

So, wait. If he has a girlfriend, why would he say that to me?!

He has a girlfriend?

This unpopular-looking boy?

Being complimented like that, for the first time ever...

...it wouldn't make me the slightest bit happy. No way.

"I think it would look pretty good."

...not that I believed him or anything.

Looking back, it's doubtful they were really even dating in the first place.

I didn't hear about anything else after she dumped him.

Oooh...
Is that how it is?

Thanks for the food.

There's no accounting for some people's taste, I guess...

Want to know what I think?

But...he **has** had a girl-friend before.

← hasn't

So, they're not together anymore!

Ah, that really gave me a shock!

It's like a huge weight suddenly lifted off my shoulders!

I think Caffeine is just too soft on people.

He's basically super nice, right?

But pair him with a strong-willed girl, and he just turns into her doormat.

What do you mean? ...

Women are the kind of creature to take advantage of people who will indulge them.

If you aren't stern with them every once in a while...

GLARE

GLARE

Hmm... Okay.

I don't really get it, but he likes more assertive women?

Get bent, Azuma.

I don't think that's the reason why Caffeine-kun dated someone like her.

What were you trying to pull when you said that to me?

No way. Nuh-uh. Never. Not a chance.

FORCEFUL

...

Also, there's no way I'd even confront him like that in the first place.

No, that's out of character.

That's not even the kind of forceful we want.

...

...you've been acting strangely today.

It seems to me ...

What?

M-me?!

BA-DUM!

Hamarin? Is something the matter?

It's nothing.

はの TURN

N-no...

Oh, no... I made Nozomin uncom-fortable...

Ha ha ha! Azuma-kun, your lunch...

It must love you as much as you love it!

OH, MY!

I have been acting odd today, though.

Ever since I saw him this morning..!

Almost as if...

HA HA HA

YEP! HA HA HA! IT SURE LOVES ME!

L...

L...

Love...

...?!

Love ?

赤い実はじける
Passion
彼の時
At that time...
腕の中で
In his arms...
The red fruit burst open.

春はあけぼの
Love
好き
In spring it is the dawn that is most beautiful.

... Hama-rin?

Love?!

EH HEH HEH... I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU!

RIGHT, HAMARIN?

Note: These are quotes about love from famous literary works, most notably *The Pillow Book* by Sei Shonagon and *Akai Mi Haziketa* by Keiko Nagita.

Hama-
rin...

I
think
...

...
something
must have
happened.

No way!

Not a thing!

We just talked once!

And it was him talking to me, at that!

It's really absolutely nothing important!

He probably doesn't even remember—

Sorry, am I interrupting?

Ha ha ha... Quite a set of lungs you have.

Azuma...

You mixed up our lunches.

Read your text messages, man.

S-sorry.

EEP!

Oh! We ran into each other before.

That ribbon was yours, after all, huh?

It looks nice on you.

HAMA-RIN?!

DASH

...

AND YOU WANT TO KNOW HIS REAL NAME?!

URGH...

The next day... Hamarin confided in Aizawa-san.

WHAT?!

YOU'RE INTERESTED IN CAFFEINE-KUN?!

Miss President!

What about our club meeting?

Didn't you say we'd meet today?

STUMBLE

No idea...

Wh... what was that all about?

?


BA-
BUMP
BA-
BUMP
ドキ
ドキ
Hang in there!
Saito...?
Taka...
Takahashi...?
Answer:
Takuya
Takahashi.
Gimme a sec.
Uhh...


STRAY BULLETS
...the girls shot Keisuke dead.
Yeah? Well, you said you were busy!
No one told me you guys were going to karaoke together!
JABBER JABBER
Shaddap!
in the midst of their bickering over karaoke plans...
K-Keisuke !!
SLUMP
Be...be well, my com-rades.
...you fool! Don't you know to stay out of fights between women?!
Blugh ...
YOU DON'T DE-SERVE THIS!
Nooo!
OUR ONLY CRIME WAS LEAVING THEM OUT OF THE LOOP...!
I never heard anything about karaoke plans ...
Wait a second.
And it's not like I had anything better to do...


You guys, uh...have fun at karaoke?
Yep!

ep. 15 What Azuma-kun Has Forgotten (Part One)

The Aizawa-san dilemma:

But it seems Azuma-kun has somehow forgotten about it.

To be frank, Aizawa-san loves Azuma-kun so deeply that she previously confessed to him.

Still, she cannot will herself to speak!

Unaware of her romantic feelings, Azuma-kun makes a fool of himself again and again, carelessly saying insensitive things.

Aizawa-san is unable to calm the turmoil she feels within.

A confession means nothing more than an opportunity to be rejected!

I want to, but I can't!

The only way to see if he really did forget about her previous confession is to make another!

Ha ha ha... It's a one-in-a-million chance, but if I end up with a girlfriend, I'd feel so sorry for that girl...

Torn between her two desires of "I wish he at least remembered my confession" and "Remembering my confession would be inconvenient"...

...the dilemma Aizawa-san finds herself in causes her immense amounts of stress every day.

第2理科準備室

CULINARY SUPPLY ROOM #2

And so, although the work has "harem" elements, its appeal lies in the fact that the main character does not fall victim to stagnation and preservation of the status quo but changes and grows as the title progresses.

SIIIIGH

...Aizawa-san?

However, to these two, I would add—

And, by the way, the so-called "wild stallion" endings are chiefly divided into two camps: one, where the protagonist uplifts and saves another character, and one where the protagonist pines for someone the whole way through but remains single at the end.

Although he feels uneasy in light of the incongruity, he is unable to change topics due to his lack of experience.

...s-so, about that first type with the rescue, you should firstly keep in mind that a romance story requires the presence of a rival character...

SIIIGH

...

It's nothing.

Oh, I'm sorry.

DING DOOONG

キーンコーン

Ah, the bell!

See you later, Azuma-kun.

Y-yes. Later.

Let's go, Nozomin!

What's up, Nozomin?

CHATTER

#17

'Scuse me, coming through!

So, anyway...

Hm? About what?

CHATTER

#17

Ahahaha

Too little, too late!

You've been really down lately.

And you sigh sometimes.

CHATTER

#17

And, like, all day today, you never peeked in on Class Four even once!

O-oh, is that so?

CHATTER

#17

It's just, it seems like Azuma-kun has completely forgotten about when I confessed my love to him.

I'm left thinking that he might have considered it unimportant...

It kinda makes me upset.

I'm sorry. You must have wanted to peek, too.

It's okay! You can go without me.

That's... not what I was trying to say.

...wait a minute. Did you just say you confessed to him?

Huh?

Yeah, but he rejected me pretty much immediately.

ARE YOU SERIOUS?!

Aizawa-san is feeling down.

Hey! Azuma!

I'm worried.

...

Oh!

Maybe it was something I–

...no, she wouldn't care so much about that.

I wonder if she's ill?

Women always worry themselves into ulcer territory.

Hey! It's Azuma!

Hey! Azuma!

But the school store is in the other direction...

...uh.

You're here at just the right time!

Can you buy us some fried tofu rolls?

Three of 'em!

Aizawa-chan isn't feeling too hot?

Huh, Azuma?

What'd you do to her? you say to her? you do?

And of course you all blame me...

No bad-mouthing, please!

SORRY, ANY MORE NEGATIVITY, AND I'LL BE OVER CAPACITY.

OR SOME DUMB FIGHT!

OR YOUR DUMB GLASSES!

LIKE ONE OF YOUR DUMB THEORIES!

Of course we do! You probably said something annoying again!

Cold? Aizawa-san? Absolutely not.

I would say, rather, that she often expresses a great deal of emotion.

Now that I think about it, Aizawa-chan is with you a lot, isn't she?

All joking aside, Aizawa-san has quite the playful demeanor, actually.

They've said "dumb" four times now...

CHATTER

CHATTER

Oh, does she?

BAM

IF YOU'RE LABELING SOMEONE AS COLD, IT SHOULD BE ME!

After all, look at my glasses!

SHUT UP, DUMMY!

We usually think of her as being a bit cold...

...but she gets along with people surprisingly well!

...

...

Also, she has a very healthy appetite, and she eats in a very c—

GIMME MORE INSIDER INFO ON HER!

Hey, now! That's not fair! Finish what you were saying, man!

SMIRK

SMIRK

TURN

Ah, never mind.

I don't need to go out of my way to tell them anything.

Tamaki?!
... wait.
Hm?
WAVE
WAVE
ぶんぶん
Azu-ma-kun!
Over here!
Oh!
That was just me searching for a new identity!
It did kinda bug me, though.
He almost said "onion" ...
So you decided not to keep your oni— unique hairstyle, then?
What happened to your hair-style?
INTERJECT
You're very close with Aizawa-san, are you not?
What kinds of topics do the two of you talk about together?
Um ...
Excuse me...
our Tamaki is back!
Eh heh heh...
I wanted a new look!

God?

He's saying he would like to talk with her, too.

Don't just say it outright! Tamaki, you jerk!

Ugh...

God!

What topics ...

Usually we discuss boxed lunches or comics or the like.

SHE'D PROBABLY SAY, "DON'T YOU DARE COME NEAR ME, YOU PIG!"

Well, knowing Aizawa-san, she wouldn't, but still...!

N-NO WAY! IMPOSSIBLE!

A LOWLY PERSON LIKE ME COULD NEVER DO THAT!

Okay... why don't you just talk to her, then?

Hmm ...

Well...

I'd say none of those other people know her as well as you.

WHISPER

Hey, Tamaki...

...isn't Aizawa-san's reputation a bit off from reality?

Are you interested in any girls from other schools?

As fellow "glasses guys," we should share info.

Oh! Azuma-kun! Can we exchange LINE handles?

I see...

People tend to see what they expect to see.

They're probably just projecting their own ideas onto her!

Ah!

COULD IT BE THAT AIZAWA-SAN HERSELF IS ALSO WORRIED ABOUT THIS GAP, AND THAT'S WHY SHE'S DOWN LATELY?!

She's the kind of person...

...who gives friendly smiles so often...

I wonder why?

Come to think of it...

There seems to be a significant distance between her and other people that I don't quite understand.

Aizawa-san?

Azuma-kun!

Hey there.

What are you doing all the way out here?

Well, there's this 150-yen red bean soup here and... I was going to buy some bread rolls for the week, but when I see it there, I always want to try some.

I... see.

It does look good.

じっ...

STARE

The hot lemonade might be good, too.

Maybe I'll try that one.

...in my imagination.

Aizawa-san...

...was there anything you wanted to talk with me about?

N–

No, not really...

You've been pretty down lately.

I'm worried about you.

I want her to be able to rely on me.

Aizawa-san!

I want...

...doesn't she want to talk to me?

Why...

PULL BACK

OH!

ER...

S-SORRY!

Ow!

Azuma-kun is surprisingly strong...

BA-DUM

She's so soft!
She's so soft!
She's so soft!

I can't possibly say it.

I can't tell him I'm upset because he forgot about my confession.

No way!

Ahem.

I was wondering if there was any way I could help.

A-at any rate...

RUSTLE

But...

...

Azuma-kun...

Hm? Of course. It was when we were preparing for the harvest festival.

Do you remember ...

...the day we met?

...Aizawa-san?

Oh—

You might not recall.

We were both first-years.

We only talked briefly.

Of course I would remember that!

How could I not?

Even more ...

...than the day at the train platform.

After all, that day...

...was the day I fell in love with you, Azuma-kun.

You remembered such a small interaction!

I'm so happy!

I'm so happy!

Aizawa-san?

Um...

What if I told him I loved him, right here and now?

What if...

How would he respond?

Profess-ing love unsolicited is the height of folly for a woman.

Perhaps he'd even lecture me again, like last time...

Would I just be troubling him?

Would he be more considerate of me?

Someday ...

...I'd like to properly convey my feelings once again.

HE HE HE

HE HE

A-Aizawa-san?!

What's gotten into you?!

But, for now, I'll let things stay as they are.

HE HE HE HE HE HE

第2理科準備室

CULINARY SUPPLY ROOM #2

SHAK ガラ

Today's lunch is sweet-and-sour pork with stuffed peppers...

CHEEDLE DEEDLE

DEEDLE

PLONK

What are you talking about?

What? My distance to others?

Aizawa-san cheered up a lot after that...

...so that's good, at the very least...

SUMA

ガラ
SHHHK
SHIVER
ぶるっ
Ugh... it's so cold...
Miss Presi-dent!
Hello. Is Aizawa-san not with you?
Nozomin said she'd be late 'cause she's picking out bread from the sale.
Oh, okay.
UGH!
Why him, of all people?!
Ah, it's so cold...

What's wrong, Miss President? Is there something you'd like to say to me?

why always me?!

Why the heck...

...would you reject my precious Nozomin like that?

You turned her down at the train platform, didn't you?!

I heard it straight from her!

Don't play dumb!

...

I WHAT?!

WHEN SHE ASKED YOU OUT?

...I like you.

Shiro Azuma-kun, second year, Class Four...

...what.

God.

Nozomin lets you get away with anything, just 'cause you're you.

Even rejecting her.

It's so unbeliev-able, it pisses me off!

Huh? No, wait...

We both treated it that way.

That's not very nice.

But... wasn't that just a joke?

I've decided to forget all about it.

Wait. Is Aizawa-san really the type of person to tell such a joke?

Anyway!

Don't get a big head just 'cause Nozomin confessed to you!

You creep!

Hmph!

weirdly antagonistic

What?
Huh?

Did I reject Aizawa-san?!

The stark realization sets in.

...what will Azuma-kun do next?

Hm? What's wrong, Azuma-kun?

WHO COULD POSSIBLY KNOW?

SHHK カ!!

LOOK! I GOT A VARIETY TEN-PACK AT THE BREAD SALE!

TWITCH シメク

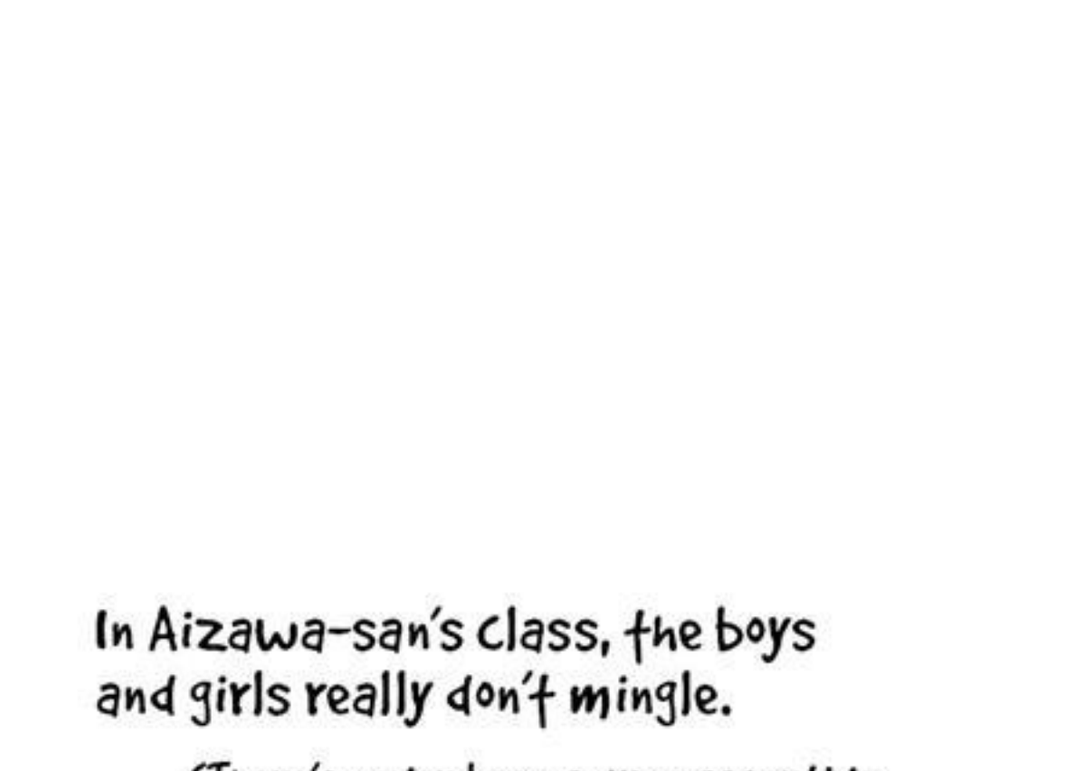
JUMP ギ!! ワ

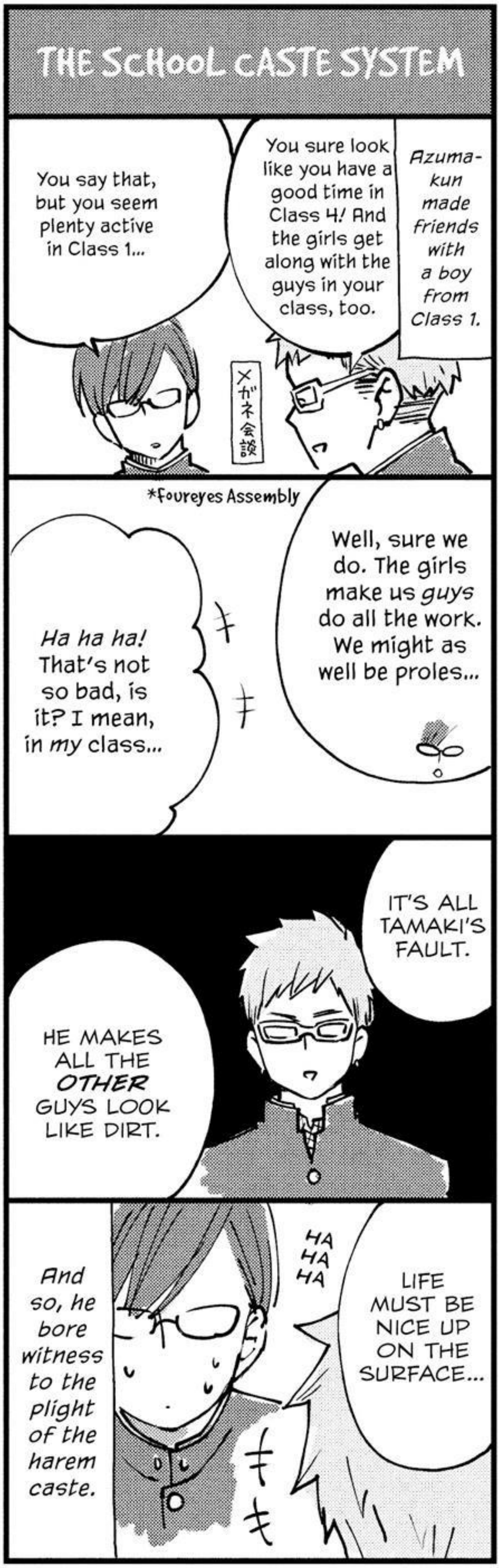
Armed with the knowledge that he is (or was) the object of Aizawa-san's affections...


Azuma-kun?
Azuma-kun?
...

In Aizawa-san's class, the boys and girls really don't mingle.

(There's never been anyone assertive enough to get them to start, so...)





ep. 16 What Azuma-kun Has Forgotten (Part Two)

Let's review the previous events of Our Precious Conversations!

Azuma-kun completely forgot that Aizawa-san confessed her feelings to him.

I've decided to forget all about it.

However, Aizawa-san's close confidant, Hamarin, set the record straight in a fit of jealousy...

Don't play dumb! You turned her down at the train platform, didn't you?!

When she asked you out?

...and Azuma-kun finally remembered how he flatly rejected Aizawa-san's advances!

The stark realization sets in.

What the heck?!

DRIP だら

DRIP だら

DRIP だら

What's wrong, Azuma-kun?

What the absolute heck?!

Do you not want to eat lunch today?

...rejected Aizawa-san?!

I really...

キーン...

GASP

Aizawa-san... liked... me?!

THUD

WOULD YOU LIKE SOME?

LOOK! I GOT A TEN-PIECE BREAD SPECIAL!

THUD

What the heck is this?!

Does that mean... Aizawa-san was in love with me?!

THUD

THUD

THUD

THUD

THUD

Oh, no! I have more pressing concerns...

FLASH

I was absolutely sure she was just joking!

Why is it that boys like fighting so much?

I never got that impression! I mean, all she did was start random conversations with me!

Or maybe she lost a bet or something!

Did you really believe that?!

Ha Ha Ha Ha

How does Aizawa-san feel about me now?!

It's a simple flavor, but a good one!

Ooh! This one's sprinkled with salt!

What about now?!

Nice!

Azuma-kun?

Oh!

What's wrong?

LEAN

She's... way too close!

BA-DUM

BLUSH

AH!

UM...

W...

WHAT IS IT?

Like there's some dark secret troubling you deep in the recesses of your heart...

You look a little under the weather...

Way... way... way too close!

Why does she have to be so unnaturally perceptive, today of all days?!

STARE

I wonder if he has a stomach bug...

No! If I don't shape up, she'll find out that I know!

I'm losing my cool, collected composure! I have to act natural!

...but it looks like he actually did forget like a dumbass.

Some-how this pisses me off even more.

CREAK ぎく

CRICK しゃく

STARE

月は無慈悲な夜の女王

*The Moon is a Harsh Mistress by Robert A. Heinlein

Azuma...

I thought he was just playing dumb earlier...

...

It's better for your health to do something about it sooner rather than later, you know!

きゃっ CHATTER

きゃっ CHATTER

Note: *Mochi* is a chewy rice cake made by pounding rice with a mallet.
A folk tale says rabbits pound *mochi* on the surface of the moon.



*My Father's Dragon by Ruth Stiles Gannett







Whoa!

BA-DUM

PEEK

You keep reading that book... Is it that good?

エルマーのぼうけん

Oh, right! There's that big library right near your train stop, isn't there?

Turns out there's not much substance to it...

...a book I read when I was young. I remembered it, so I borrowed it from my local library.

Th— this is...

TOUCH

Are you all right? You don't have a fever or anything, do you?

W— I— AAAAAAH! NO MORE, AIZAWA-SAN!

No, couldn't be! That's a common transfer station for students here! That must be why she knows!

THUMP THUMP THUMP

How does she know that?!

It couldn't be because she likes me, could it?!

correct!

What the hell am I thinking?! I'm getting carried away by my delusions!

THUMP THUMP THUMP

B-but she does ask me for my book recommendations quite a bit...

Could it be because she wants to read the same things I've read?!

correct!

I can't go back to the usual!

No, it's nothing.

N—

I can't...!

It's a swamp!

BLURP

Like I'm sinking into the dark depths!

Oh!

LOOK, AZUMA-KUN! A CARAMEL ROLL!

I'M SUPER LUCKY! ♡

These are normally ¥250!

*Around $2.50.

...

...I'll try to pull myself together for now.

Oh! And... another salt...

SPLOOSH

My emotions are way too out of whack right now...

Patisserie R

*PHYSICS

物理

*FINAL EXAMS TWO DAYS FROM NOW

期末考查
最终日

Finals are coming up.

I have to cool my head...

Organize my thoughts a bit.

キーンコ DING DOOOONG ーン

...OVER!

149

CHEEER

56

IT'S...

62

I studied 'til I dropped, all night, five nights in a row.

Thanks to that, I squeezed through.

Of course. If you get a failing grade on your finals, they hold you prisoner over winter break!

I see you actually put in some studying this time, Azuma!

Nice work!

Let's go party!

...

Now, then...

older girls?!

Yeah, Azuma's cute aunts!

Yeah. We picked up 20 kilos of rice this year, so you should come ov—

CALL ME OVER WHEN IT'S TIME TO EAT IT!

Your family gonna be pounding *mochi* again this year? You and those older girls?

Yo, Shiro!

*FINAL EXAM RANKINGS

期末考査
成績上位者
一 藤本誠
二 古賀裕貴
三 相沢のぞみ
四 前野拓
五 小林健人
六 [illegible]

1. Makoto Fujimoto
2. Yuki Koga
3. Nozomi Aizawa
4. Taku Maeno
5. Taketo Kobayashi
6. [Obscured]

I got caught up in my exams...
I didn't take time to think it over at all.
MURMUR
#11
#7
MURMUR
#7
Azuma!
I'm going to buy a drink. You want one?
145/232

*Nozomi Aizawa
相沢の
Yes, your bad.
We never really talked after that...
Why me? When? Where?
I don't get it...
We interact much more these days.
First off...
...if she asked me out, at what point before then did she start liking me?
Plus...
...it's kind of too late to think about now.
She did use the word "friends" for us, after all.
Nothing more and nothing less.

Huh?

You know, Caffeine ...

Romance is just a series of misunderstandings nine times out of ten.

Has anybody ever said that in their life?

Yeah. Me.

The emotion called "love" is a psychological delusion.

That's why couples will say, "Oh, I must have been mistaken," and break up.

Well, even if it's some kind of delusion, I think it's still worth it.

No matter how you arrive...

Azu-ma...

...you've never had a girlfriend.

...it doesn't change the good feelings you experience while you're there.

...

I see.

*FIRE EXTINGUISHER

Oh.

Azu-ma.

Thanks, Caffeine.

I guess your relationship experience isn't just for show.

What's that sup-posed to mean?

You and Aizawa-san sure do say that a lot.

Is this an inside joke?

OH, UM...

ER...

Hm?

I...

I wanted to say...

So—

Ah!

SPIN

I'M SORRY!

BYE!

Ha ha ha! She's pretty fast, too!

?

Huh?

What was that all about?

Beats me...

Miss President is a difficult person sometimes.

It's been a while since we last talked...

Aizawa-san and I...

It's been a while since we last talked...

Azuma-kun and I...

ぐ SLUMP





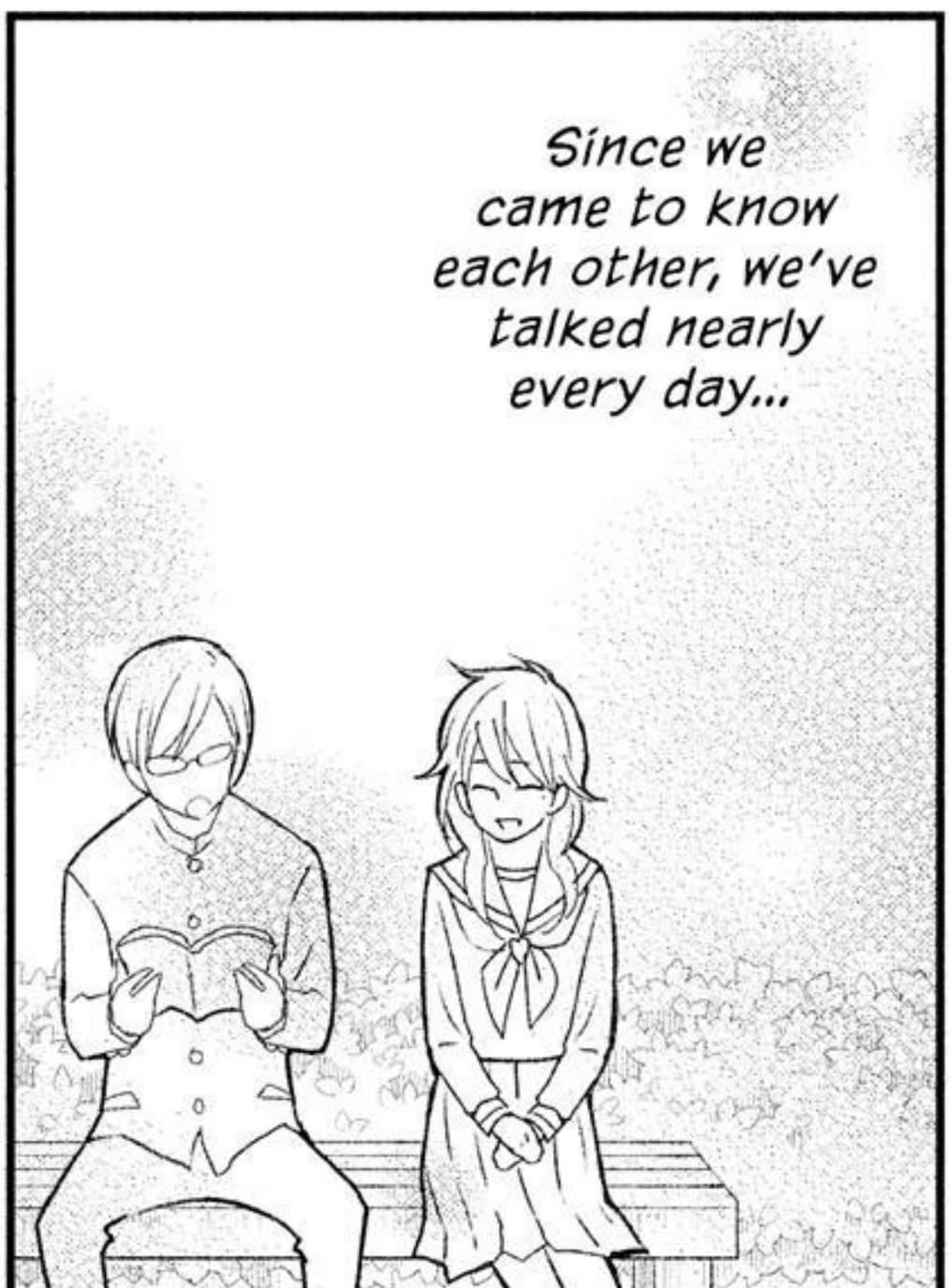
But I'm having withdrawal symptoms!

I didn't want to get in the way of his studying, after all.

We didn't talk at all while we were busy with tests.

I suppose that's to be expected...

Since we came to know each other, we've talked nearly every day...





Maybe...

...I've gotten greedy.

...I could talk with him.

I wish...

Aizawa-san...

Hi.

Azuma-kun?!

DASH

It looks like she's sparkling...

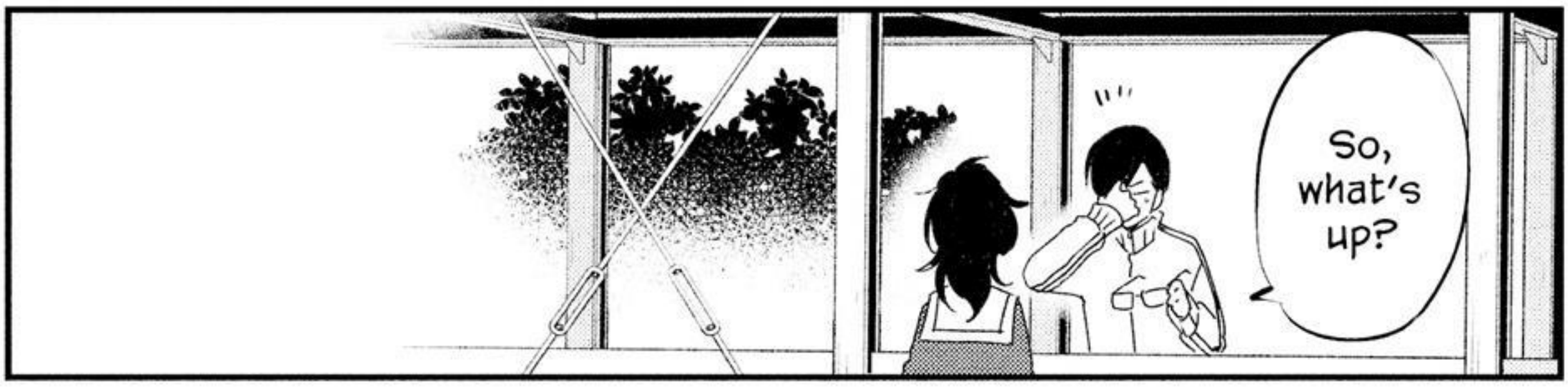
Huh?

No, thank you for this opportunity to indulge my senses!

Oh, are you?

Oh, um... Don't get too close. I'm smelly.

I just came from gym class.


So, what's up?


Oh...
Um...
Well...
The tests sure were something, right?
Oh...
Yeah.
Some-thing.


What about you, Azuma-kun? How did you do?
I managed to get by without any failing marks this time.
THAT'S GREAT!


Hamarin and I spent the whole month studying.
I guess I got a better rank than usual because of that.
She's normally ranked in the 20s
Plus, I had all that free time from being without you for a whole week!

oh, I guess I already said that.

I'm just glad they didn't lock me away during my long-awaited winter vacation.

Huh?

Some-how...

...we're both talking just like usual.

Ah ha ha! You're so silly!

Which means...

He he he.

Hm?

It's just...

I was thinking, "It's been a while since we've talked like this."

Oh...

I get it.

I think...

...if she was willing to get this close to me, with us acting normal before...

Aizawa-san?

...I'm sure...

...things will be fine if I just act like normal from now on, too.

If it's not too much trouble...

...would you like...

...to eat lunch together again, starting tomorrow?

Yes!

Of course!

And so...

Azuma-kun and Aizawa-san...

...slipped right back into their old, comfortable routine.

Or, rather...

Oh! It's snowing!

I can't believe it's the last day of the second term already!

It's gotten really cold!

SCURRY どたた

Let's throw that out!

SCURRY ばた

Year-end cleaning

So, what does your household usually do for Christmas?

Christ-mas?

You know, regular stuff.

We have a chicken dinner and exchange presents, like anybody else.

Oh, I see!

As for me, my family goes out selling cakes each year.

Oh? That's neat.

Note: Fried chicken is the traditional Christmas meal in Japan.

Y—

You know ...

...

Winter break, huh...

I'd better start prepping to sneak some candids of Azuma-kun!

When we have vacation days...

I like to borrow a book from my local library and read it at the nearby cafe over a cup of tea each morning.

If you like...

...you're welcome to join me.

If you have time, of course.

If—

The more things change, the more they stay the same.

Next, in Our Precious Conversations...

...we'll begin the "leisurely neighborhood story" arc.


Salt-crusted bread accounted for nine out of ten items...
Aizawa-san's Variety combo
...
Whoa...
I mean, I like it, but...

HELL LAKE

And then you'll never guess what Hamarin said!

BA-DUM

BA-DUM

I wonder what she thinks of me...?

Aizawa-san is weighing so heavily on Azuma-kun's mind, he's having trouble acting normal.

HUH?! N-NO, I'M FINE!

BA-THUMP

Hey, are you all right? Something must be up. You've barely said a peep!

Oh, no! I've got to say some-thing!

Oh, my god! Where do I get off?! I'm blathering on in response to a question she never even asked!!

So I've been reading this book lately, you see, and there's something I'm just not getting, but well, this particular writer and I rarely match up very well when it comes to morals, or just how we look at things, I suppose, like for starters, the boy and girl in this book—

Huh?

Thank goodness! That's the Azuma-kun I know.

Aizawa-san...you don't...think I'm just another one of those jerks who likes to argue for argument's sake, do you?

...

Special End-of-Volume Manga

The Confession - From Her Point of View



*Caution - Railroad Crossing

EEEEK!

第27回千和台高校 収穫祭

肛門科・ひふ科 よしざき

診療時間
月火 9:00~5:00
水木 10:00~5:00
金土 9:00~3:00
日祝 9:00~12:00

薬

KA-CLACK-

KA-CLUNK

トン

HOOONK

He's right next to me! Right next to me! I couldn't have dreamed we'd be this close this time last year! Sure, maybe it's a public space, but...you sat on the same bench as him, Nozomi! How daring!

...

She's so nervous, she can't help but make a straight face.

Oh, no! My heart's beating so fast, I can't talk to him...! But I've got to go for it. I promised myself today would be the day!

Just...introduce yourself and strike up a conversation over something inconsequential...

GASP

W...wait. What do boys talk about, anyway?

Wh-what about my little brother?

God. That's no good. We haven't talked in ages.

Azuma-kun's a reader, right? Maybe I'll just ask him what he's been reading lately!

Yeah. Yeah! That's it!

Introduce yourself, talk about books! Introduce yourself, talk about books!

Hurry! Hurry! Talk to him! His train'll be here any minute!

BA-DUM BA-DUM

Wh...

With the cat out of the bag... she just ran with it.

Why is it that boys like fighting so much?

Oh, my gosh! I blew it!

Even I don't know what I'm talking about! He's totally going to think I'm weird now!!

He did.

The End ☆

AFTERWARD

Thank you so much for reading Volume 3 of our Precious conversations. With winter setting in, our heroes can't very well spend too much time outdoors...so they're keeping warm inside for now.

The Lit club

A motley crew of background characters led by Marin Hamada.



Honestly, I wanted to give these kids more of a chance to shine (if only from the background), but things happened, and they ended up not really making the cut this volume. Maybe you'll see more of them in volume four! (In the background...)

Well, I hope to see you again in Volume 4!

2017.11.13. Robico



NEXT MIRACLE ★GIFT

This is a one-shot the folks at Weekly Shonen Magazine were kind enough to run for me.

I'd never done a shonen manga before, so I set out to make a story that just screams "shonen!" If you ask me, anyway...

Santa Claus here was a ton of fun to draw.

Now turn that page and let's get started!

TING
ピカ
TING
ピカ

?

What's this?

Aah! There it is!

In all my sixteen years, this day's been nothing but bad luck for me.

CHATTER
ザワ

PLOD
トボ…

PLOD
トボ…

God... everyone else sure is having fun today.

Idiots. Santa Claus, my ass!

It'll be Christmas soon.

CHATTER
ザワ

X'mas ケーキ予約受付中

*Taking Orders for Christmas Cakes

?!

JINGLE

I FOUND IT, SEMPAI!

JINGLE

…

Huh?

Miracle ☆ Gift

Don't tell me you can...*see* me?

BLUUUSH

I've been assigned to these parts this year.

Hey there... I'm Santa.

Well, he is certainly staring...

S...S... Santa?! And a reindeer?!

Uhh...you **can** see us, right?

FWUFF

FWUFF

Wh... what is going on?

Oh! Right, Sempai!

Man, she's cute, though...

TING

TING

Ugh!

There I go again!

MY FIRST DAY ON THE JOB AND I'VE ALREADY SCREWED UP!

OH, GREAT! SANTAS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE **SEEN**!

THE BOSS IS GONNA KILL ME!!

Huh...? Nose?!

I'm— I'm not asking for a free lunch or anything, of course!

I'll give you a reward, I swear!

Excuse me, uhh... do you think you'd mind giving that back?

THE NOSE?

They carry **yen** at the North Pole, huh?

SNIFF

It's all I've got on me...

H...how's 3,000 yen* sound?

*3,000 yen: about $27 US at the time of this writing.

It's important to you, right?

I'll just give it back. Here.

L...look, I don't need any reward, okay? All I did was pick it up.

BEEP BEEP BEEP

Gimme a sec, okay...? Takeo Komatsu from the second ward, huh? Yep! You're a good boy, all right!

That explains why you could see it in the first place!

Spad

BEEP

And what do **you** want for Christ-mas...? A girlfriend, eh?

This stupid thing.

N-not really. I mean, I don't even want it.

Y...you really are a good little boy, aren't you?!

SANTA CLAUS IS A FRIEND TO ALL GOOD LITTLE BOYS AND GIRLS, AFTER ALL!

OKAY!

Anyone you want, okay?

Just figure it out by sun-set!

B... Buuh?

I'll see to it that she likes you back!

Pick out a girl you like by Christmas Eve tomorrow, okay?

Huh...?

JINGLE

シャリン

シャリン

JINGLE

JINGLE

シャリン

Thanks a million for giving back our nose!

Well, see you! Thanks!

キーン

DING

コーン

DONG

Huuuh ...?!

CHATTER

ザワ

CHATTER

ザワ

GAB

キャっ

GAB

キャっ

Morning!

CHATTER

ザワ

CHATTER

ザワ

CHATTER #7

...

CHATTER #7

Can this thing really get me a girlfriend?

Any girl I want?!

"Within municipality of issue," huh...? They didn't exactly pull out all the stops...

SANTA LOVE ギフトカード

本人限定
町内限定
有効期限:
12/24 日没まで

*Santa Love Gift Card

When I woke up this morning, I found this gift card under my pillow.

I guess I wasn't dreaming...

It looks like an Amazon card or some-thing...

*For Use By Recipient Only
Redeem Only Within Municipality of Issue
Effective Until Sunset, December 24th

What do I do?

GAB きゃっ

GAB きゃっ

What do I do?

GAB きゃっ

GAB きゃっ

DING-DOOONG キンコーン

HAPPY MERRY CHRISTMAS !!

BAAAM!

DUHH...

Oh... Santa Claus.

Hey there.

Christmas is tomorrow, you know...

Don't you "hey there" me!

I noticed you hadn't made your wish yet, so I thought I'd drop in...

...and you're just staring off into space! Have you figured out who you like yet?!

I can't do that...! Those girls are *way* out of my league. People would make fun of me for going out with them!

I see a certain little boy doesn't believe in Christmas miracles ...!

Okay, so there's Shirakawa-san, the most popular girl at school...Aida-san, the pretty girl with the big boobs...and Yokoyama-san, the school idol!

Take your pick!

Ugh! What *am* I to do with you?

Well...not really. I mean, I'd pretty much like *anyone*, so I couldn't make up my mind!

Then before I knew it, it was noon...

?!

PSST

Don't worry. Whoever you choose...

...is going to fall *madly in love* with you. ♡

...

...she might just do *anything you ask* her to! ♡

She'll do *this*, she'll do *that*...

HEH HEH

And then she'll be all over you!!

HEH HEH

I'll pick someone, okay?! Just... give me some time alone so I can think about it!

Roger that!

You'd better. Christmas Eve's a busy time for me, you know!

It's the only day I'm on the clock, after all...

I don't remember saying anything ...

Oh? Do what?

God! Enough! Shut up!!

I—I can't do that!

FWAP

すっ

って

EEK!

I rarely get a chance to **talk** to the girls around here! How does she expect me to pick a girlfriend?

That might be easier said than done... What to do now?

Are— are you all right?

Huh...? Komatsu-kun!

I, uhh, guess I tripped.

Oww ...

Are you sure?

Thank you so much!

She knows my name!

They're class-mates

L...let me help you carry those!

Sh... Shira-kawa-san?!

Almost Christmas, huh?

Y-yeah.

Got any big plans for the holiday, Komatsu-kun?

No...not really...

Ha ha! Me either.

H... hey...

Is it me, or is this going, like... really well?!

I'm **too** lucky!!

She's nice...

...she remembers my name ...

She's not... **into** me, is she...?

Maybe she's the girl for me!

BA-DUM

BA-DUM

M... maybe I ought to give that Santa Card a try.

THMP THMP THMP THMP

Oh ...!

Look! The soccer club's all together.

The soccer club? Oh, yeah.

You know Masaki-sempai? He's in the soccer club.

I guess he caught the eye of some scout from another province. They're giving him a tour over winter break!

Isn't that amazing?

...or aren't you?

Look, are you gonna *use* this card...

You did that?!

The sun's about to set!

What was wrong with Shirakawa-san?

Bah.

There you are, Santa.

I *tripped* that poor girl for you, you know!

I can't just ignore how a girl feels and *make* her go out with me!

It'd be the same!

So you don't know yet, huh?

Why not try someone else, then?

I'd feel guilty forcing her to like me instead!

I don't want her!

She's more interested in *What's his name-sempai* from the **soccer** club, anyway.

As much as I'd like to...

I see... You're right.

I'm sorry. I should have been more thoughtful.

It's just...I've wanted to be a Santa for so long, and now that I am, I thought I could help *someone* out a *little*...

?!

W-well, y' know, I wasn't exactly *in love* with Shirakawa-san, anyway.

Besides, if not for you, I wouldn't have gotten to talk to her at all! I wouldn't say you *didn't* help me out...

I'm sure there are *lots* of girls out there who'd like to date you.

Don't worry, Komatsu-kun.

Wh... wha... wha?!

I can't, of course! I'm Santa Claus, after all.

Santa's honor!

You've been a very good boy this year!

Santa...I want you for Christmas.

...Huh?

I want *you* to be my girlfriend,

Santa Claus!

...uuh...

Wh-
whaaa?!

SHFF

ノノノ

JINGLE JINGLE JINGLE

And so...

Ugh... Christmas, huh?

Santa, my ass...

7:10 12/25 FRI 22.6°C 43.2% CHIRP CHIRP

...that's the story of the strangest Christmas of my life. The Christmas I got to meet Santa Claus face-to-face.

I'll be back soon!

CLUNK

There was no present under my pillow on Christmas morning, though. Not that I had any reason to expect one.

I...I just meant, "I'm Santa, so I'm busy tonight!"

That's my school's uniform!

H... huh? Why?!

I thought you told me, "sorry! I'm Santa!"

Do you want me, or don't you?!

Th—

Y...You're the one who asked me to be your *girl-friend!*

BLUUUSH

Don't tell me you want to make a return *now!*

M... Merry Christ-mas.

Your pre-sent's here.

I don't.

Merry Christmas.

W-well, I'm Santa Claus! The magic doesn't work on me!!

By the way, I seem to remember something about my new girlfriend being *all over me...*

THE END

Our Precious Conversations 3

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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OUR Precious CONVERSATIONS

4

ROBICO

Our Precious Conversations

4

Presented by Robiko

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character



Shiro Azuma

This is the boy Aizawa-san bared her heart to. They seem to be getting along well enough now...he thinks...



Nozomi Aizawa

A second-year high school student. After pining for Azuma-kun for ages, she finally worked up the courage to tell him she has feelings for her, but...



Marin Hamada

Aizawa-san's close friend and the president of the lit club. Her nickname is Hamarin. She might be starting to take an interest in Caffeine...!



Caffeine

Azuma-kun's laid-back, kindhearted classmate who can run with just about any crowd.

...And the Rest of the Gang



Kazuomi Tamaki



Kudo-san | Nanashima-san | Hachigasaki-san | Nakagawa | Keisuke



story

Nozomi Aizawa had been pining in secret for her schoolmate, Azuma-kun, for quite some time...but she finally worked up the courage to tell him how she feels! But she just can't seem to catch a break now. He spurned her advances as "wrong," saw her panties, and even nitpicked the hand-made gifts she'd put so much work into! Undaunted, she continued to converse with Azuma-kun daily, and the two slowly grew closer...until, finally, Azuma-kun gave her the okay to strike up conversation at school! Winter break is here...and Azuma-kun just invited Aizawa-san to join him at his favorite café!

ep. 17

You Say "Friend," But You Mean "Possession"



Let's review the previous events of Our Precious Conversations!

へいわ台中央駅

It took until the end of the second term, but Azuma-kun finally realized that Aizawa-san actually liked him. He summoned up all his courage and invited her to spend time with him over winter break...

*Heiwa Main St.

へいわ一番街

へいわ台中央駅
HEIWADAI-CHUO STATION

喫茶
マリソル
CAFÉ MARISOL
COFFEE
P
本日のランチ

*Lunch Specials:

CHING-A-LING
カランコロン

Azuma-kun...

Hi, Aizawa-san.

12/28

チリリン

あっあつ なべ焼うどん ¥700

Oh, it's fine.

I had some coffee while I waited.

Sorry I'm late.

The lending counter was pretty backed up.

This year, my aunts made Keisuke pound the rice.

He got carried away and tried to lift the mortar with the *mochi* and threw out his back.

He's headed to the hospital now.

Oh, my! Is he all right? U

Oh! That *mochi* I mentioned, that my family makes each year...

Please have some.

REALLY? THANK YOU!

*WATER: Help yourself for refills

oh, a coffee for me, too, please.

...

He's looking great today, as always...

Azuma-kun...

You do refills yourself here.

Oh, no...

RATTLE RATTLE

Come to think of it, when we ran into the Class Four girls after meeting up the other day, they were very smartly dressed, too...

OH, WHAT'S THIS?

OH, HO! WHAT'S THIS?

GRIN

GRIN

GRIN

GOING ON A SWEET LITTLE DATE, ARE YOU? ♡

Hmph!

Somehow his casual clothes are super stylish?! That's not what I expected!

I thought he'd turn up like this!

Hi, Aizawa-san!

I'd already resigned myself to that!

Or this!

Hi, Aizawa-san!

So far, since the beginning of winter break...

I'll bring some tomorrow!

Really? okay!

oh, I love it, too!

making excuses to meet the next day

...we've met up every single day except Christmas Day itself.

Am I... too bland and boring?!

I always wear simple dresses...

hmm

My entire wardrobe is hand-me-downs from my mother and grand-mother!

Aah! I'm meeting Azuma-kun tomorrow, and I don't have a thing to wear!

LIKE I CARE!

It's not like I have a choice! I haven't gone clothes shopping since four years ago, when I was in the first year of middle school!

Oh, thank you, Grand-ma!

Look here, Non-chan. With a few alterations, this will look wonderful on you.

Sure.

SHAKY

E...excuse me. I need to go powder my nose...

Aizawa-san is wearing...

...a dress.

Dresses are so nice...

Punk!

I wish every girl would quit wearing those freakish pants...

...and go back to skirts.

As a boy, he doesn't follow women's fashion trends closely.

When Aizawa-san took off her coat on that first day, I was shocked.

An off-white sweater-dress?!

How femi-nine!

ピキーン

BA-DUM!

I should compliment her about something...

WHEELS TURNING

In situations like these...

Girls love getting compli-ments.

A dress.
A dress!

A dress!!

Huh? You're a man, aren't you? Just compliment her! Are you stupid or something?

Of course she's pretty! Anybody can see that! That's boring! Throw a curveball once in a while, geez!

ヒソ

No wonder you're a virBLEEP

Case 1: Auntie A

ヒソ

No wonder you're a virBLEEP

Case 2: Auntie B

What? Oh, my... Hehehe! What a silly idea... Hehehe How are you supposed to compliment her, you ask?

Don't even look at me.

You're so cute, Shiro... ♡ Like a pure maiden! Hehehe!

Case 3: Auntie C

You disgusting pig!

Case 4: Auntie D

After all, Aizawa-san and I are merely meeting like this for a scant hour of tea drinking each day as nothing more than friends.

It would be strange of me to compliment her.

I don't know what I was thinking.

AZUMA-KUN!

I'm sure no matter what I said, she'd tear me up over it anyway.

SIP

ズ

Well... I suppose there's no need to force a compliment.

What's that?

DAILY SPECIAL

オススメ

本日の HOMEMADE 手作りケーキ

¥350 CAKE OF THE DAY

LOOK AT THAT, AZUMA-KUN! TODAY'S CAKE SPECIAL LOOKS DELICIOUS!

クラシックショコラタルト

ルパフェ

ぜひお試しください。

*Classic *Chocolat* Tart
*Granola Parfait

In the intervening time, she was able to get her emotions back under control.

LOOK! I FOUND HALF-OFF COUPONS IN THE RESTROOM!

Even if it's not a modern fashion, my grandmother assured me I look great in it!

Most important for a woman...

...is being neat and tidy!

I can't afford to eat something like this on my meager allowance...

...but just seeing it makes me so happy.

My daily coffee with Azuma-kun is more important than any cake! ♡

I love chocolate!

Whipped cream, *chocolat*, and a tart is a killer combination!

I see...

I wonder if this is how girls feel when I talk about assembling model kits...

I mean, we have the coupons and all.

I was thinking we could split it...

If you want it that much...

...why don't I buy it for you?

Huh?

IT'S-

IT'S REALLY✧ REAL!✧

I kind of threw the suggestion out there...

...but she wanted to try it so badly...

Okay, so how do we approach this?

Should we eat it together?

"Here you go, Azuma-kun!"

won't you?

open wide,

SHAKE SHAKE

We're not dating!

That's the kind of thing only couples do!

Let me split the cake for us!

All right, Azuma-kun!

I'm always splitting dessert with my brother.

I'll be fair!

Oh... sure. Please do.

カステラ?

Oh, hey.

*Castella

NOM もぐ

Hm?

Who?

NOM もぐ

NOM もぐ

They go to our school.

Out the window.

I've seen that boy around.

Eh he he... I wonder if they're dating?

I kind of get that impression, since he offered to carry her bag like that.

THAT'S WONDER-FUL.

THAT'S TERRIBLE.

He's a nice guy who loves Jiro Asada and cats more than anything else in the world.

The girl is Ogata-san from Class Three.

Azuma-kun sure knows a rather surprising number of people...

I...
I DON'T THINK THAT'S QUITE WHAT'S GOING ON...

The man should stand up for himself. Any person should be expected to carry their own belongings.

Does he really wish to debase himself just for the chance at being liked?

I see this kind of thing happen every once in a while... Why is it necessary for the man to carry the woman's handbag?

It's like she's deriving enjoyment from asking the man to willingly become her slave.

He gave the bag back to her!

O-OH! LOOK! THEY AREN'T A COUPLE AFTER ALL! ∪ ∪

THEY'RE FRIENDS! JUST FRIENDS, SEE?

WHAT HELLISH DOOR HAVE WE OPENED WITH THOSE WORDS?

OH... A "GUY FRIEND," IS IT?

But the woman does not need to accept his intentions to benefit from his service—a system of exploitation known as having "guy friends."

I've said it before, haven't I? A man won't do anything lacking in meaning. If he's not interested in a girl, why would he **bother** *carrying her stuff?!*

When a girl calls someone her "guy friend," you can substitute the word "posession" right there without losing a single iota of meaning!



To put it another way, he's her "posession"!

I'LL SAY IT RIGHT NOW! IF A MAN WISHES TO DATE A GIRL WHO CALLS HIM HER "GUY FRIEND," HE HAS **NO CHANCE IN HELL!**

THE BEST HE CAN DO IS WORK HIMSELF TO THE BONE TO BECOME HER FAVORITE PLAYTHING!

He's probably thinking that this girl is an exception!

That aside, if the situation truly is as you say, why is it a man would continue being friends with someone like that?

I see...

WHY IS IT THAT YOU SEE THE WORLD AS A PLACE SO FILLED WITH SELFISHNESS AND EVIL?!

I'm actually suffering from a full body muscle ache right now...

SHIVER

SHIVER

It's probably because I was nominated to carry 30 kilograms of rice for making *mochi* all by myself merely by virtue of being a "man"...

Shouldn't he at least be able to respect other people? I'm pretty sure friendship does actually exist in this world!

I can't believe Azuma-kun... he's gone back to his old ways again.

Ah!

I got impassioned and went off about my theories in front of her again...

Right now, though, what's way more important to me is this cake!

It's good! It's good! It's so good!

The cake is really good, so Aizawa-san will let Azuma-kun's comments pass without a rebuttal this time.

Guy friends, huh...

Right now, it sounds like I'm saying Aizawa-san is the same way!

Well, it's not like everyone is—

I don't think I've ever had a guy friend, really.

...does that include me?!

Huh? I don't get it! If she doesn't have any guy friends...

So, does that mean we're not friends, then?!

Whaaat?! That's a little shocking to hear!

...what?!

What about me?!

...why are we here, eating cake together?!

But if that's true...

If we're doing this together, and I'm not her friend, that means I'm...

Conversely...

con•verse•ly

\kənˈvərslē, ˈkänˌvərslē\

Adverb. Introducing a statement or idea that reverses one that has just been made or referred to.

No. Wait.

Ah!

Azuma-kun?

H—

HEY!

RATTLE

I'M GOING TO GET A REFILL!

Calm down!

Deep breaths!

...

It's not as if it's confirmed.

I'm...

BLUSH

I'm...

...

...her special someone?!

Right?!

Oh, Azuma-kun...

I hope he found something good.

After all, even with it being so cold, she still waits for me to finish at the library...

*WATER: Help yourself for refills

水 おかわり自由 セルフサービス ↓

But I can't think of any other explanation!

I feel so light on my feet now!

I love food!

Wow! It's food!

It's Christmas leftovers.

And she was overjoyed with my gifts...

She's even wearing simple, classic dresses, just like I like.

...

*purely coincidental

Welcome back!

THUNK

RATTLE

Hm?

There's something wrong ...

Now that she's done with her cake, Aizawa-san is back to her regular cool.

Is Azuma-kun? something the matter?

... N– NO, IT'S NOTHING.

...

It's just...

Earlier, when you said...

...you didn't have any guy friends...

...oh.

So

SCREECH

O-OF COURSE! I'M SORRY!

YOU'RE MY CLOSEST FRIEND, AFTER ALL, AREN'T YOU?

MY BEST GUY FRIEND!

Hm?

I really am a "poses-sion"...

She didn't even bother to count me among her friends...

お会計

LUNCH

*Checkout

Azuma-kun...

JINGLE

Thank you very much!

This is for you.

I hope something like this doesn't set him off...

...even if it's handmade...

ドキ ドキ

BA-DUM BA-DUM

Hm?

What's this?

It's a book-mark.

I made it from decorative cord.

Oh!

It's pretty cool!

Thank you so much...

...for inviting me out like this!

She says "guy friend"...

...and means "poses-sion."

Oh, yes.

You, too.

It's not some-thing I would have expected ... coming from you, Aizawa-san.

Hm?

Thank you.

This and that happened ...

...and before they knew it, the year was over.

Later.

I'm off to buy more cards now.

See you!

EXTRA

THAT THEY'RE STILL NOT DATING YET...

...JUST PISSES ME OFF.

MURMUR

Dammit!

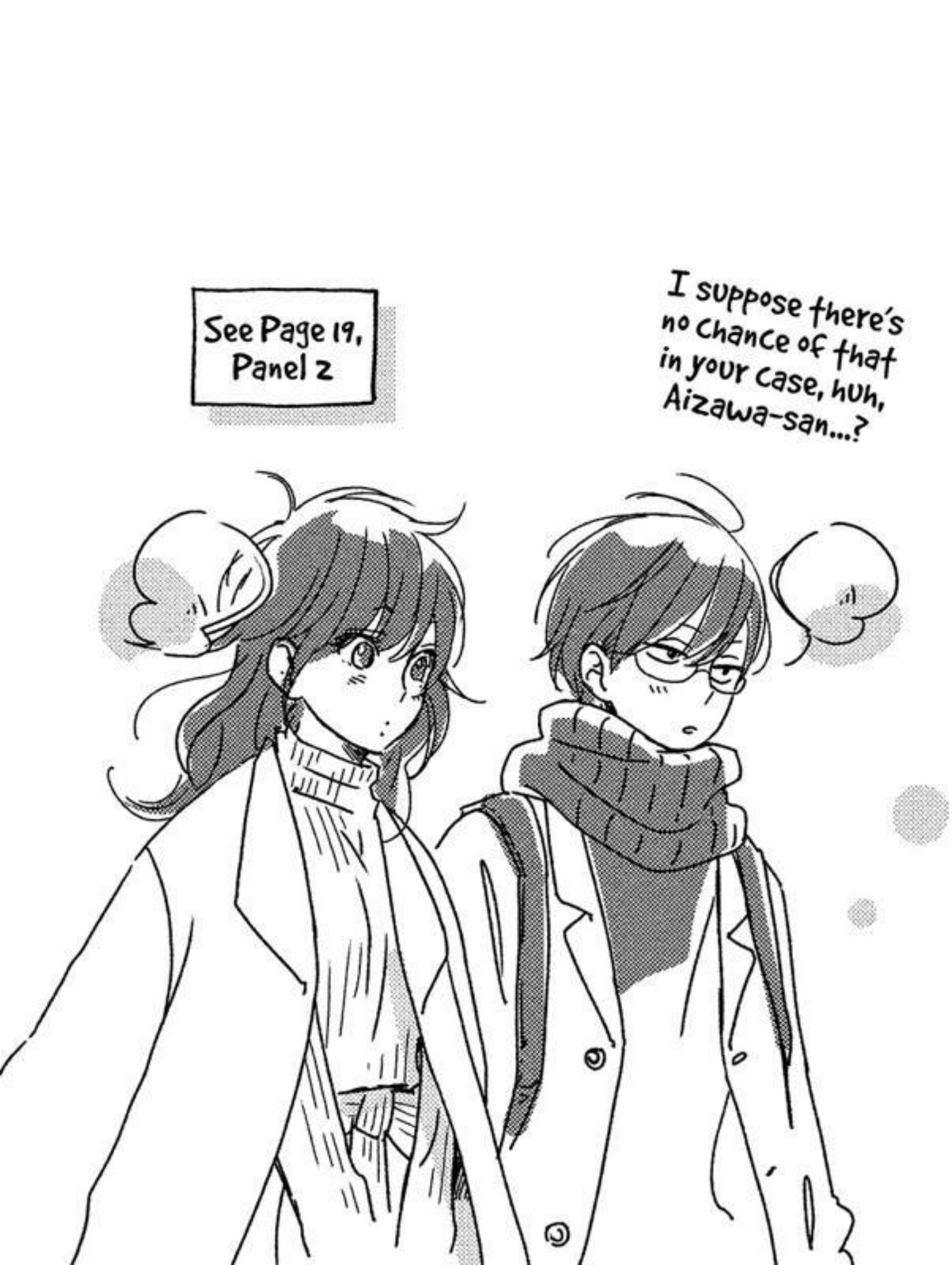
Must be nice...

MURMUR

WHAT'S ALL THIS?

DAY AFTER DAY?

See Page 19, Panel 2



THE STATUS of AIZAWA-SAN'S WALLET

Times 14, the Number of Days in Winter Break: 2520 Yen

Coffee with Azuma-kun: 180 Yen

But it's okay. I get to see Azuma-kun over break, after all.

I'll have to hold out on the modest indulgences that bring me joy for now... Goodbye, bread. Goodbye, snacks.

She managed to scrape together enough for some cake.

I have half a mind to lick this plate!!

It's so good! It's so good!!

Not that I will...

Cut Scene from Page 26...

No-zomi ...

SNIFF

OOOH! THERE WAS A FIFTY-YEN COIN HIDING UNDER THE PHONE!!

50

Cleaning

And so, I scored myself another 200 yen*...

GRAND-MA...!!

Here. Some walking-around money.

Go on.

...I know what's going on. You've found yourself a nice boy, haven't you?

*200 Yen: About $1.80 US at the time of this writing.



*zoni: A traditional healthy soup eaten on New Year's Day that contains mochi and vegetables in a clear broth.

Dude, I've been here all night.

I've been downstairs hangin' with your aunts.

DAZED

What are you doing here, Keisuke?

You can't just let yourself in, especially this early in the year.

Come on, let's eat up.

...

You can't just work through your vacation, especially this early in the year!

You didn't come down at all last night.

Were you up all night workin' again?

Happy New Year! Is Azuma there? He hasn't read any of my texts! Let's go to Amakuni Shrine!

Nakagawa's inviting us on a new year's visit to Amakuni Shrine.

What about you?

You comin'?

...

No... no...

I don't want to...

FLUMPLE

I'm so tired ...

I want to go back to sleep...

CHA-BING!

Oh, hey.

I have plans to go with Hamarin, but...

I haven't thought about it.

By the way, are you planning to go to Amakuni Shrine for your new year's visit?



...if you were going, too, maybe we could all meet up?

MURMUR

Happy New Year...

...

Hamarin!

Happy New Year.

Nozo-min.

MURMUR

MURMUR

...on second thought...

I'll come.

MURMUR

しんこだんご

ep. 18 High Schoolers Congregate One By One

一駐車

MURMUR

ザワ

People pray here for prosperity in business, for their studies, to improve their luck...

It's the largest shrine in the area by far.

They say something like 300,000 people visit Amakuni Shrine for New Year's each year.

MURMUR

ザワ

Oh, neat!

You sure know a lot about all sorts of stuff, Hamarin!

ドヤ

HEH HEH HEH

YOU KNOW, THE REALLY INTERESTING THING IS, THE "DEITY" SUPPOSEDLY ENSHRINED HERE, RIGHT, IT'S LIKE, JUST SOME FAMOUS PERSON FROM THE, LIKE, 1860'S, AND NOT EVEN A GOD AT ALL! THEY SAY JAPAN HAS EIGHT MILLION GODS, BUT HERE WE ARE AT ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS SHRINES, AND IT'S DEDICATED TO A HUMAN! YOU COULD SAY IT'S A TESTAMENT TO THE RELIGIOUS BROAD-MINDEDNESS OF THE JAPANESE AS A PEOPLE, OR POSSIBLY MERELY TO THE POWER AND INFLUENCE ONE FAMILY CAN HAVE OVER GENERATIONS OF TIME!

I'm so glad I looked that up before I came!

It—it's nothing special. I just wanted to go with you, that's all.

Wow, look at the crowd!

How was your winter break, Hamarin?

This is my first time doing a new year's shrine visit with friends!

Thank you so much for inviting me!

Wow! That's great!

If you win top prize, they'll sign on to publish your comics profes-sionally.

She's entering a comics compe-tition.

This way.

Sub-mission?

So I spent a while helping her out.

Oh, well, one of the juniors in the literature club was having a real rough time with her submission.

You and Azuma?

You two have been meeting every day, right?

What about you?

MURMUR

You always go crazy whenever Azuma's even mentioned, you know.

Still ...

MURMUR

NO, IT'S DEFINITELY AN EXAG-GERATION.

It may be every day, but it's only for an hour, isn't it?

Yes! Now even meeting each other in public isn't awkward at all! It's no exaggeration to say that soon we shall be wed!

Are you ready?

Hey!

Yes!

...is that so?

I can't take it!

I'm bursting with joy!

Aah!

No!

Good for you.

Meeting every day like this...

Just being near one another like this is like a dream come true.

*Fortunes

おみくじ

おみくじ

MURMUR

MURMUR

Check it out!

Hama-rin!

...

...and if I can recreate them at home?

I wonder what flavors they have?

Smells good, too!

*BABY CASTELLA

ベビーカステラ

*About $4.50

カステラ 500円

They have baby Castella cakes!

NERVOUS

ドキドキ

WHAT'S THIS?

IF-IF YOU WANT, WE COULD TRY SOME? I HAVE MY NEW YEAR'S ALLOWANCE WITH ME...

It sounds so cute!

WHY, IF IT ISN'T AIZAWA-CHAN!

MURMUR MURMUR

ボソボソボソ

SO, WHAT'S THE DEAL? YOU'RE HERE WITH YOUR FRIEND, JUST THE TWO OF YOU? WHAT ABOUT AZUMA?

He hasn't read any of his texts on LINE!

Aah!

Urgh ...

OH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE LIKE THAT! CALL ME HACHIGASAKI-CHAN!

Oh!

Happy New Year, Class Four girls!

ベビーカステラ

*Baby Castella

\\\//

What's this?

HAPPY NEW YEAR! BEST WISHES!

Tamaki-kun!

Happy New Year.

It's quite cold today.

It's...

THUD
THUD
THUD
どどど

It's the prince!

Ooh, how feisty.

I HAVE TO TOUCH HIM!

WON-DER-FUL!

甘酒

Huh?!

Hmph. Of course his bodyguard has to show up and ruin things.

That there is bait to pull in better girls than you!

Hey! Hands off the merchan-dise!

*AMAZAKE: A sweet, low-alcohol wine, served warm, that's traditional to drink on New Year's Day.

MURMUR

ザワ

Why, if it isn't Aizawa-san!

MURMUR

ザワ

Happy New Year, Tamaki-kun.

Oh, that's right!

I saw Azuma-kun not too long ago.

Over near the *tori* gate.

It's so cold, and they're making me sit and wait right here...

This year has been terrible so far.

I see they have you hard at work even this early in the year.

Huh? Where did Hamarin go?

Me– Me, too!

LET'S LOITER NEAR THE STALLS!

Woo-hoo!

ALL RIGHT! TARGET SIGHTED!

ボヮボヮボヮ

MURMUR MURMUR

Aizawa-san is totally hooked!

See you later, Aizawa-san.

At school.

I can't believe you, Hamarin!

Oh! Hama-rin!

I'm nervous enough around strangers as it is...

...but in that loud, showy throng? Forget it!

MURMUR

ガヤ

You scared me, disappearing so suddenly!

Yeah, well...

I just didn't know what to do.

ガヤ

MURMUR

Those class four girls are going to beat you!

Shouldn't you be tracking down Azuma?

Are you really okay letting this chance pass, Nozomin?

Oh, Hamarin, I hate to ask, but would you mind if I stopped by the restroom?

CROWD

ずらり

Look at that line!

Sure thing. I'll wait for you over here.

Of course she checked.

Well, the thing is, he's not over by the *tori* anymore...

ずーん

SLUMP

*[The Original] Potato Donut

ポテリング

...

RUMBLE

ぐ"

All right! I love potatoes!

#17 MURMUR

The line's pretty short over here. Might as well.

It'll be a while before Nozomi comes back.

MURMUR

What's this?

MURMUR

MURMUR

You're Aizawa-san's friend.

Huh?

Sorry to keep you, Hama-rin!

It was very refreshing!

She disappeared again...

Where did she go?

キョロ

TURN

キョロ

TURN

Azuma-kun?

BA-DUM

BA-DUM

B-BE QUIET!

SNAG

AAH!

AH!

What are you doing?

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

HI.

A-AIZAWA-SAN?!

Good. It doesn't look like they've noticed us.

THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
ドキ
ドキ
ドキ
ドキ

...

They're after our New Year's allowance, I know it.

I was almost spotted.

Like hell I'll give them anything!

Buy us food! Come on! Do it!

Keisuke!

Aah!

oh!

Would you like some?

I just bought these.

It's baby Castella.

...

You think? Not too sweet?

It's good!

MUNCH

MUNCH

It's pretty sweet...

MUNCH

Somehow, I feel...

Somehow...

I CAN'T TAKE IT! I'M BURST-ING WITH HAPPI-NESS!

Wh—?!

Maybe I'm just misunder-standing, but...

...we're growing closer.

Little by little...

You can't take it? Why not?

MUNCH MUNCH

Don't you get the same feeling?

The good time you're having now will inevitably end, and then what?

Not really. But that sounds typical of girls.

Always unconsciously weighing the benefits and risks of the future.

I SEE...

However, I would say the greater part of those anxieties are needless worry.

Better to leave it out of mind until such a situation actually happens.

That way, you can concentrate on enjoying the current moment.

But that's just what I think.

There are new model kits releasing this month!

All the same, I will defend my New Year's allowance to the bitter end!

...
Heh heh.

That's true.

Hm?

HE HE

That's a very Azuma-kun-like attitude.

Happy New Year...

...Azuma-kun.

Hey, Azu-ma!

Oh, there you are!

Let's stay close in the coming year.

Yes.

I would like that.

There are ban-dits afoot.

I'd be careful about leaving right now.

Oh, Caf-feine!

Oh!

I SPY AN AZUMA, TOO!

IT'S CAF-FEINE!

THAT TALL, HANDSOME, TIRED-LOOKING STRANGER THERE!

Well, see you later, Hamada-san.

I'm glad we were able to find Aizawa-san after all.

YEAH! WOO!

AAAAAAH!!

YEAH!

COME ON! LEND ME SOME CASH!

Sorry. They spotted me.

You suddenly disappeared!

It surprised me.

CAFFEINE! BUY ME SOME DANGO!

NO.

The man who can say "no"!

I GOT HUNGRY, AND...

...I WENT TO BUY A POTATO SNACK, AND...

I MEAN ...

I just...

I'm glad. We both had a nice shrine visit, right, Hamarin?

You know, I was thinking ...

This whole last year I was rushing myself and pushing myself... I want to concentrate on the "now."

AZU-MA!

AZU-MA!

FONDLE

FONDLE

Note: This is Aizawa-san's perspective.

FINE! OKAY! I GIVE!

LET ME GO!

SMOULDER

...nah. Forget it. This is no time to slack off!

I'll try even harder this year!

Aizawa-san readies herself to face the new year with renewed convictions.

Save me!


Aizawa-san Attempts to Channel the Girls from Class 4...
Hmm? What?
What is it?
Rrgh...
ぐぐ...
I...I can do it, too...!
Waagh!
Yaah!
...and fails.

How THEY HAVE FUN

Grilled squid!

The cotton candy cart!

Q: Which carts do you like to hit at the fair?

Chocolate bananas, I guess...

Candied apples!

Takoyaki!!

I just eat once and that's enough for me.

Hmph. I don't see anything productive about stuffing your face.

*Moko

Dammit! one more!

You can knock these stupid things down, can't you?

Doesn't strike *me* as productive...

So he says, but he's played that game, like, ten times now...

*Target Practice

He went broke in the end.

He talks big, but he loves drawing fortunes.

It's just not *productive!* Just because some piece of paper says something doesn't mean it'll come true...

Hmph! Fortune telling, my foot!

WHOA!

He tunes in every morning to hear how his luck's gonna turn out.

*Good Fortune

喫茶
マリソル
CAFÉ MARISOL
COFFEE
P
本日のランチ
Sorry to bother you...
...but before winter break is over...
...I'd really appreciate it if you could look this over for me...



ep. 19

The Lit Girl Cannot Descend from Her Tower (Part One)

In Love with Sempai
Heiwadai High School
First Year, Mika Tamura

The storyboard for your Newcomers' Competition submission, huh...

Sorry.
The plan was to finish the manuscript over Winter Break...

...but the storyboard still isn't up to snuff.

I've been reading and rereading it over and over these past few days, and I'm at my wit's end.

Story-board?

A rough draft of a comic, including the dialogue and basic sketches.

Cliché, even.

The ending was quite predict-able.

I don't understand why the boy falls in love with the protagonist, but even more so, the subplot where she believes this woman is his girlfriend but she turns out to be his older sister feels very trite.

To say nothing of the basic premise. The relationship between sempai and kohai—between upperclassmen and their juniors—is incredibly overdone. There's no "hook" to draw the reader in.

Very well. The parts I'm con-cerned about are...

No way! I already know it would be no good, I don't need the judges to tell me, too!

Just so we're on the same page, if you finished it right now working from this, couldn't you just submit that as-is?

...she says.

All right...

Sempai!

Who is she?

She is...

H-HEY! DON'T TELL ME I HAVE THE RIGHT TO SAY WHATEVER I WANT AND THEN GET MAD AT ME WHEN I DO!

CRASH!

I'll R-

...so what you're saying is the whole thing is bad from start to finish!

So, it's the ending and the initial premise, huh.

Those are definitely the weakest parts, I'll admit.

All right. So... How do we inject some novel ideas into it?

Come on, now.

No need to flay him over an opinion.

Even if a story is cliché, if it's got some novel ideas, you'll still want to force yourself to read all the way through, right?

ABSO-LUTELY.

Well, excuse me for being cliché!

After all, it's an honest reaction to your work by someone who read it.

You think so?

I think it's already pretty good as it is.

This is a love story, isn't it?

I don't care about complicated ideas. What I'm reading for is the delicate movement of the characters' emotions.

What it is about him that makes her fall in love...

...and how that emotion develops over the course of the story...

...that's the kind of thing I want to read!

Like here, the feeling of being riiiight next to someone you like is conveyed wonderfully.

And on the other hand, here, I think it would be more satisfying if you were more explicit about his feelings.

If we let the reader see a bit more of the boy's emotions here, the ending works a lot better.

Oh, that's a nice sugges-tion.

OH... OH! OH!!

...

SO... SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

Yeah, sounds good.

キャー! EEE!

I can't believe I talked about romance in front of Azuma-kun!

I didn't expect you to be so good at giving criticism.

Well, that was a sur-prise.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE!

See you later!

*Now serving yakiudon

...

Now, what I really want to read is the love story between me and Azuma-kun...! ♡

You think?

All I did was give her my honest opinion.

The Door into Summer by Robert A. Heinlein

Is there a problem with me staying here?

No? Why would I?

Um... Miss President?

Don't you need to go with your club member?

She's just going to be doing the final art for it. What am I supposed to do to help?

IS THERE A PROBLEM WITH ME STAYING HERE?

MUTTER ゴニョ...

N...no, I suppose not...

*Happy New Year

It's Aizawa-san's friend.

Oh?

Nice to see you.

I...

Um ...

ざわ
MURMUR

ざわ
MURMUR

I'm here with Azuma and the rest.

Friends ?

Who'd you come with?

I came with ...

... Nozo-min.

SCRITCH
ぽり...

I...

...

SILENCE
しーん

Aw, man. I'm glad to hear it. See, I was thinking you hated me for some reason. Ha ha ha...

Oh! Is that so?

GASHA

CLATTER

WH—?!

NNAAAAAAH!!

はあ…

HUFF

はあ…

HUFF

What do you think about antisocial girls?

Huh?!

What do you think…

AAH!

I'D PROBABLY THINK, WELL, THAT SURE IS AN ANTISOCIAL, KINDA GLOOMY GIRL, WITH NO REDEEMING FEATURES WHAT-SOEVER!

Why are you so angry about this?!

Y-YOU CAN'T JUST ASK ME THAT!

SLAM

What do boys think about, like, antisocial, kinda gloomy girls, with, like, no redeeming features whatsoever?!

Like, I don't know!

Oh, Hamarin...

...

Like, I'd be more intimidated!

THAT-THAT DEPENDS ON THE PERSON, DOESN'T IT?!

So you'd hate her, right? I knew it!

I don't think there would be a problem with that.

Yeah. My club members do it all the time, right?

Do you think I could tag along to your thing tomorrow?

You want to ask Azuma-kun for advice?

Hm?

Wait! Hamarin!

See you then.

Thanks.

I WAS SURPRISED TO SEE HIM ESCORTING YOU BACK! IT LOOKED LIKE YOU TWO WERE HAVING FUN!

AAAAH!

N–n– no, not really!

We just happened to be next to each other for some reason!

And– and you weren't there when I came back.

How did things go with Caffeine-kun the other day?

Wh...

oh, sorry about that! ♡

...

And, I...

I...

It was awk-ward ...

I couldn't really talk...

Probably ...

...he thinks so, too.

SHHK

Come on, Nozomi! Quit hog-ging the phone!

Let me use it, too!

...wasn't having fun!

It wasn't fun at all!

...

So...

I don't care anymore.

...

I don't think that's how it felt to your companion.

Drop it, okay? I don't want to talk about it.

...

I think you do.

...we had that whole conversation, didn't we?

...do you want to come ask Azuma-kun?

Tomorrow...

It's someone I– it's my club– it's a friend, okay?!

She has this boy she's interested in!

You're not being very honest, Hamarin!

I'm not talking about myself, okay?!

And, just so we're clear...

She's being manipulated by his kind words!

At least she decided to consult him after all, since she's still here...

Stop, Azuma-kun! She's trying her best! Don't crush her spirit like that!

AH HA HA HA HA! WITH HOW YOU'RE TALKING, IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE ASKING FOR ROMANTIC ADVICE FOR YOURSELF AND POORLY COVERING IT UP!

Although, if Miss President is interested enough in someone else's romance to ask...

Very well! I will tackle this challenge!

Azu-ma-kun ...

Azuma ...

...that's your friend we're talking about, you know.

IT'S A REQUEST FROM MISS PRESIDENT, AFTER ALL!

O... okay... so...

My friend, like...

I'LL EXPOSE ALL OF THAT MANIPULATIVE BASTARD'S TRICKS AND UNCOVER HIS TRUE DESIRES!

Hamarin is a terrible liar.

Mm-hm. Go on.

So, this is some stuff that happened then...

She and the guy she's into ran into each other on New Years at the shrine— I mean, around town somewhere.

Seems pretty normal so far...

Okay.

Uh...

And asked her stuff like, "What do you do on your days off?"

So the guy, like, said hello to her and stuff...

That's just regular old small talk.

Why would she do that?

But...

She wasn't prepared for the sudden question-ing... she said.

And my friend couldn't face him and frantically ignored everything he said.

Wh— ?!

Wow, that's cold!

She said she worked up the courage to give, like, one-word answers like "cleaning."

I KNOW! I GET THAT, OKAY?!

This is a boy she's interested in, right?

That kind of behavior literally screams "she can't stand me."

Is that... really what you want?

That just means he's a nice guy!

So, even after all that, he still continues to be nice and talk to her...

And because she'd been out in the cold for a while, my friend sneezed, and...

The guy asked if she was okay and gave her some tissues, and...

It's your "friend" here who's the problem!

YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW THAT?!

IT'S JUST, IT WAS SO EMBARRAS-SING!

I guess she, like, tried to grab the packet too fast and accidentally knocked it out of his hand...

Hold on a second, here!

So, we're still claiming it's a friend?

...

...she said.

Tell your friend to shape up, then! No matter how nervous she is, she has a duty to the people around her!

I haven't ever really talked to a guy before! Except in, like, class and stuff!

I was just so nervous, and these words kept coming from behind me, and...

She can't communicate properly and just keeps causing trouble.

You're exactly right. That's why she feels really bad about it now.

He probably hates her because of it.

First of all, the kinds of issues and mistakes that girls worry about...

...are things most guys don't even care about.

or even notice, half the time.

...you can't know that.

He probably doesn't hate her.

You should tell your friend.

Throughout all of that, he kept talking to her, didn't he?

It's not something she needs to worry about!

...

GA

CLATTER

...I'm going to go use the restroom.

Has he not figured it out yet?!

WHAT?!

I would love to serve under her.

Miss President really is something.

She's so concerned, above and beyond, about this friend of hers...

TOILET

It's not something she needs to worry about.

Through-out all of that, he kept talking to her, didn't he?

...

I can't believe Azuma lectured me like that...

SHHHH ジャ

KSH ベレ

Uh-oh.

Aizawa-san isn't here?

Nozo-min's not here...

Thank you!

Damn it!

I want to disap-pear! I want to die!

...

EEEEEK!

S–

Sorry ...

So he's helping me...

...look for her.

Well, I'm sure she hasn't wandered too far.

God, this is awkward.

I can't even eat...

...my snack.

Let's go look for her.

He's such a nice person...

...

...
Hamada.

I'm Takahashi.

By the way, what's your name, Aizawa-san's friend?

KNOCK KNOCK

ガチャ

CREAK

Hama-rin?

Every-thing okay?

...

ガチャ

CREAK

Oh, sorry! Yeah, I'm fine.

Hm? Why?

Why?

SHHH

You didn't come back for such a long time. I got worried.

Hey, Nozomin

...

Once school starts up again, I'm going to try to at least say hello to him.

To Takahashi-kun.

I don't know if I'll actually be able to do it, though.

Even just "hello." U

Yeah.

I think that's a good idea.

TOILET

If I just think of it as socialization practice...

Hey.
Welcome
back.

...

STOMP

What?! Then why'd I walk all the way over here? *Ha ha ha!*

Although, I forgot to bring the thing in question.

Pardon the intrusion.

He accidentally left something at my place yesterday, so he came by to get it from me.

...

FLAP

FLAP

FLAP

ぴたぴた

Have a seat! ♡

Okay! Hama-rin!

I can't escape...

Yeah, it's over.

Club time's over, then?

Oh, hey.

Oh! That sounds wonder-ful!

Oh!

You should come, too, Aizawa-san.

We scored a big pile of free tickets.

A bunch of people in my class are going to the aquarium.

CHATTER

CHATTER

CHATTER

By the way, you heard about tomorrow, right?

We're meeting at 10:00, right? I got a text about it.

Hm? Is something happen-ing?

WOULD YOU ALSO LIKE TO COME, HAMADA-SAN?

Fwha ?!

Next time:

Hamarin's socialization practice is put to the test!

I get to go to an aquarium with Azuma-kun!

OF COURSE! WE'D BE HAPPY TO GO!

...

Class 4's Group Chat

☆Class 4☆ Team Dog-Eat-Dog

Caffeine

Hey, anyone wanna go to the aquarium?
I got, like, a billion tickets.

Hachi-chan ♡ currently on the Apple Diet!

The aquarium? I'm in!

Keisuke Ito

Maybe if I had someone to go with...

Read by 6
11:26

I'll take two

Nanatchi



Ritsuko Kudo

lmao keisuke

Andretaro Nakagawa

You guys wanna go together, then?
We're off school and all.

Hachi-chan ♡ currently on the Apple Diet!

ooh! Good call!

Ritsuko Kudo

yea yea!

Keisuke Ito

ok

Nanatchi



Caffeine

okay

Read by 4
12:19

Roger

He gave up once it became clear this was a *group* outing...

A BARRAGE FROM BEHIND

You can sprinkle that stuff on anything you like, you know? You throw, like, a lethal dose of that stuff on walleye pollack roe with some butter and mayonnaise and *man*, that's good.

Potato rings are great, huh? And butter potato seasoning, too, while I'm at it.

On New Year's Day ...

I see...

Me, I'm in the volleyball club. They really work us hard at practice! Really wears you out.

Come to think of it, what club are your friends in? No kidding! Lit club, eh?

Except in woodwinds club! I've got a friend who's doing that, and every day, he's complaining about his abs! From all the sit-ups! *Ha ha!*

I shoulda gone into a cultural club, you know? The sempai seem real nice. And you don't have to practice or anything!

*This dude sure can **talk**...*

She can't keep up at all.

Which reminds me, Noro-sensei from social sciences—

Man! Now I gotta go to the bathroom...

He seemed nice, but...maybe it's just that he marches to the beat of his own drum...

Extra: Chapter 19.5: Liberal Arts Girls Don't Fly Flags

Behind you.

Look out.

... Whoa!

ざわ CHATTER CHATTER ざわ

Man, I'm hungry!

BOOM

ドン!!

EEP!

Huh ...?

Ryuji-kun...

Excuse me.

BOW

BOW

BOW

Heyo.

It's okay.

Thanks for the other day.

Sorry I bumped into you.

He's Nozomin's little brother.

For real?

Guess that explains his looks...

GYOKURYO VOLLEYBA

He sure is polite...

...Hey, that's the Gyokuryo Volleyball Club jersey, isn't it?

What is he, in first year? Do you know him?

oh, Isee!

Yeah.

That's Ryuji Aizawa-kun.



ep. 20 The Lit Girl Cannot Descend from Her Tower (Part two)

文芸部
部員募集
・本好きの方
・文芸に興味のある方
昼休み、放課後に
1F第二理科準備室にて
活動中

*Posterboard
*Big marker

Flyer:
Literature Club
Now Recruiting!
Seeking people who:
• Love books
• Have an interest in literature
We meet every day during lunch and after school in Culinary Supply Room #2 on the first floor.


INK

Through strange circumstances and quite possibly an act of God, Aizawa-san is going to the aquarium with Azuma-kun.

Let's review the previous events of Our Precious Conversations!

...that Caffeine gave us...

The free aquarium tickets...

I was thinking...

I wanted to invite Aizawa-san to go with me...

And if we're both going anyway, the end result is the same, too.

But...

...that would totally be a **date**, wouldn't it?!

Shiro! ♡ Buy some chocolate from the stand near the station for me?

The expensive stuff! ♡

I'm heading out now.

...

Ah ha ha ha ha ha!

N...

Winter break...

It really went by in a flash.

No way.

I can't.

CHATTER

TWO!

ONE!

CHATTER

ROLL CALL!

Why am I even here...

You're too into this!

Ah ha ha ha ha!

Don't invite yourself into our group, Keisuke!

THREE!

UM...

AH...

Thank you, Caffeine-kun.

URK!

Morning. Sorry about the noise.

Anyway, here's your tickets, Aizawa-san, Hamada-san.

BA-DUM!

I think... I should just go home.

I'm really happy you invited me, but I'm just not comfortable with group activities...

That's no good, Hamarin! You should at least say hello.

Weren't you doing socialization training?

I-I SAID I WAS GOING TO DO THAT ONCE SCHOOL STARTED! AT SCHOOL! THOSE WERE MY CONDI-TIONS!

Huh? Where's Azuma?

Not here yet.

Aren't you aiming to get alone with Azuma?

I mean, aren't you just going to abandon me right away?

We're just meeting up here.

It'll be fine! We aren't going to stay as a group the whole time, anyway.

へいわだい水族館

イルカショー

...are you sure?

Oh, no... I can't say anything...

...

She's pretty feminine.

She was pretty cute on New Year's, too.

BUBBLY

BUBBLY

ISN'T AIZAWA-SAN CUTE WHEN SHE DRESSES CASUAL?

Okay!♡

Okay, fine... just... don't acknowledge my presence, okay?

Don't try to force me into the conversation like yesterday.

I hate that.

Okay!♡

Man...

LAPPING IT UP

ちゃ

ほや

SHE'S A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES!

Look! I accept that Aizawa-chan is cute!

WHAP

はい

...

WHAP

はいはい

WHAP

ミニスト

WHY?!

It makes us feel like you're comparing us! And that we're losing! So don't do it!

But you can't just talk about another girl like that right in front of us!

THAT'S ABSURD!

Oh! It's Aizawa-san!

Mo—

Yo, Azuma!

Azuma-kun!

Morn-ing.

Sorry I'm late...

I was roped into buying some choco-lates.

All right! Let's go!

Yeah!

GRAB

You're late, Shiro!

Wait—

Ai—

Well...

We can always talk after, I guess.

⑲
DOLPHIN POOL

Today's Dolphin Shows

11:00
13:30
16:00

Wow!

*Hands-on area

GET THAT AWAY FROM ME!

WHOA!

DON'T YOU DARE!

AW, COME ON! IT'S CUTE!

体験

15

LOOK, HAMARIN!

I'm so relieved... We really did break off into small groups.

Ah ha ha ha ha! What's that thing?

whew...

Maybe I can deal...

IT'S A SEA HARE!

Okay...

I guess I'm happy I came.

Sea cucumber! It looks so tasty!

Not a chance!

Nozo-min... She's sure having fun.

She's so cute...

Look!

It's the bottom of a starfish!

Are you ... ... dating Azuma?

WHAT ?!

Hiya!

So, hey... Aizawa-chan...

But everyone's all, "Aizawa-san likes Azuma!"

This, again...

I mean, not that I'm complaining! The more the merrier and all that!

I mean ...

I saw you two together over winter break...

And he came today, too...

OH? IS THAT ALL?

...
...

We're very good friends.

Who cares who she likes?

That's absolutely none of your business.

Ha... Hamarin?

...

What?

Hey.

To ask that.

Isn't it kind of rude?

Hmm ...

What should I say...

...

Who the hell is this midget?

...

Speak for yourself, shorty!

Oh! There she is!

Nana-shima!

What's going on over there?

Yes... Like-wise.

Our little chihuahua can be quite the feisty one.

Terribly sorry.

What the hell?! I was just asking!

you midget!

HELD BACK

ガヤガヤ

Just then, Azuma-kun was ...

I have a stom-ach ache ...

You okay in there?

I'm going to go cool my head.

Sorry.

Hama-rin?!

...now I've done it.

I made Nozomin angry, didn't I? I definitely made her angry.

It wasn't my business, but I still stuck my nose in.

Urgh... I don't want to go back...

深海

DEEP SEA

This crab isn't moving at all.

Why can I never get the hang of it?

So dark...

So quiet...

o

So cool...

It looks so comfortable.

ooo

Where I belong...

...is alone, here in the deep sea.

This is the big tank, where the sharks and rays live.

Probably, people like Nozomin and that Tamaki guy who's Prince of Class 1 should live there...

...and all the noisy people in Class 4 should be in the tropics.

We live...

...in different seas.

I was wrong to ever think... ...I could live in one of their tanks.

Oh! There you are!

!!

Hamada-san?

Are you okay?

...

I'm ...

... sorry I caused ...

... trou-ble...

Well ...

I mean ...

...

I heard you had a fight with Nanashima.

Ha ha... that's amazing.

So, what are you doing all the way out here?

Huh?

I don't get it.

I just...

...feel kinship with deep sea creatures.

Well, I think you did fine.

...I guess.

Really, I should apologize for inviting her.

You know, she's the terror of our class.

I wonder if it's because it's so dark, you can only dimly see them?

Deep sea creatures?

Deep sea creatures.

It's really calming...

Ah... I see the appeal.

You wouldn't get overwhelmed or hurt like that.

If I lived alone some-where like that...

...I wouldn't keep making mistakes.

Huh?

Do you ever feel that way, too, Takahashi-kun?

Depressed, because you messed up?

Yeah. Sometimes.

I'm only human, after all.

...

Well... I guess I don't usually let it eat me up like that. *Ha ha ha...*

Oh... I see...

It's only human.

Aizawa-san was worried about you.

Sure you don't want to go back?

...he really is a nice person...

My...

He came by to bring me back...

U– um...

My socialization training!

R..I

Takahashi-kun?

Did it?

I'm glad.

Thank you.

For inviting me here today.

You're very welcome.

Being able to see the aquarium with Nozomin ...

...really made me happy.

Hamarin...

I hope she's okay.

Ah... I wonder what they're talking about right now...?

...and all, so...

"Want me to look for her?"

Caf-feine-kun said ...

SO EXCITED

one-track mind

...that doesn't count as forcing her into talking to him, does it?

Worried about your friend, Aizawa-san?

He's got such a gentle face. It's so calming.

Caf-feine went after her.

She'll be fine!

Ah ha ha... is that so?

You're late, Naka-gawa!

You take too long to poop.

Oh! Azuma-kun!

Sorry, every-one!

I had a stomach ache...

...

YOU CAN'T SAY THAT IN FRONT OF A LADY!

WH-

HEY!

Ah ha ha

I'm going to go buy something.

Are you thirsty? I'm a little thirsty.

Hey. Aizawa-san.

BUMP

O-OF COURSE!

Want to come?

...

No fair, Azuma-kun!

WHAT THE HECK?

THUNK

What am I even doing...

Here you are.

Ah... thank you.

I was just...

...so irritated, for a second.

Nah. My treat.

Let me pay—

It's my apology for making you mad.

Aizawa-san didn't do anything wrong.

...

Hm?

Is some-thing wrong?

It's like you're a jealous boyfriend...

...or some-thing.

N... no...

It's just...

You're acting differently today, Azuma-kun.

HUH?!

I-I AM?!




SUNTORY

YEAH.

WE'RE AT THE AQUA-RIUM ...

I MEAN ...

ER...

I MEAN ...

WE'RE AT THE AQUA-RIUM.

I... WHAT AM I SAYING?

O-OH. SORRY.

And tomorrow, winter break comes to an end...

...

Oho...

...

RING-A-DING!

Let's meet up at the dolphin show!

OH! THE DOLPHIN SHOW IS STARTING!

Let's go!

I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING!

I can't take you any-where.

What about Azuma and Aizawa-chan?

Just leave 'em be!

They'll come on their own.

Look at them, all out in the open like that.

Ah ha ha ha

Plus, I don't have the courage to interrupt them... *ha ha ha.*

...

I...

Hm? What's up, Kudo?

I'm coming.

I THINK I'D RATHER DATE A MORE FEMININE GIRL, THOUGH!

I do like short girls, though.

You think so?

THUNK.....

Man, she's short, but she's tough!

To stand up to the girls like that?

I would've liked to see that! *Ha ha ha...*

Oh! She came back!

Aizawa-chan's friend!

DOLPHIN POOL

THIS WAY

I hope Nozomin's not mad at me...

That's good!

She probably is...

Really?

Nice and strong.

I'd be okay with a girl like her.

oh! There's Azuma.

Yeah.

She's nice.

Hamada-san is.

But, strangely, Aizawa-san seemed happy.

BLERGH!

QUIT THAT!

Eh heh heh ... Eh heh heh ... Eh heh heh heh heh ...

It's okay!

I'm so sorry, Nozomin!

After that...

Hamarin apologized to Aizawa-san.


Just under 5'0"
Just under 4'11"
Shrimp!

KID OR NOT...

Apparently, Keisuke-kun and Azuma-kun...

...go way back.

Yep, that's right! Known him since kindergarten.

He'd already developed his...quirks by then.

Eccentricity
Contrarianism
Speaking Without Thinking

Wow! You've been friends forever!

His aunts didn't make things easy for him, of course! He grew up too fast.

He made all kinds of trouble. Talked back to the teachers and stuff.

This is why you can't find a husband.

See?

Oh...

But when it was time to get in the bath with them, suddenly, he'd be on his best behavior!

FWAP

Yeah! With you!

Shiro! You getting in?

You don't say...

SMIRK

You wanna hear more?

HUH?!

CAFÉ MARISOL

喫茶
マリソル

RING-
A-DING

ep. 21 Azuma-kun Takes Up the Pen

RING-A-DING

I had a lot of fun today!

Still, it surprised me when you suddenly said that!

Right now, it's at the forefront of my mind.

I'll do a little more work on it and then ask you again.

Hm?

Oh!

IT'S JUST...

I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU USING THE BOOK-MARK.

from ep. 17

Oh!

Yeah.

*We're Watching You!

Will AI Surpass Human Intelligence? – Beyond Deep Learning by Yutaka Matsuo

Um...

Oh!

Oh?

When I'm writing, I prefer not to read fiction.

Never mind.

Well...

Didn't you say before that you mostly liked reading novels?

You really do read all sorts of books, don't you, Azuma-kun?

人工知能は人間を超えるか

Excuse me.

RING-A-DING

You ride the train, right, Aizawa-san?

...

O–
Okay!

Let me walk you to the station.

Starting tomorrow, we have school again...

Azuma-kun...

...he's so nice to me lately.

...we really are dating.

Exam season is coming, the most important time of the year, and what will happen if I catch the flu at school?

It's precisely because it's winter break that I want to take my time.

Is it because of what I said yesterday?

It's like you're a jealous boyfriend ... ...or something.

Nozomi!

It's like ...

It's almost like...

It's dangerous to walk these streets alone.

Please. Allow me to accompany you.

...

BY ALL MEANS! ♡

As long as you're here with me...

...I have nothing to be afraid of.

We walk together...

...hand in hand...

...wherever life takes us.



Oh, sorry.

What were you saying?

Winter break went by quickly.

I wish...

...it was a little longer.

Soon...

...winter break will be at an end.

By the way...

You might like to know...

My aunt said that the candy you picked out at the aquarium yesterday was very good.

Really?

I'm glad she liked it.

Although, personally, I don't like the non-sweet stuff.

I don't understand how you can lump them all together and say they're merely sweet!

How girl-ish.

Oh... right.

There are lots of different criteria!

If you've had one cookie, you've had 'em all.

You girls have such strong opinions when it comes to sweets.

Me, I think they pretty much all taste the same.

Like sweetness, or whether it melts in your mouth like butter, or...

へいわ HEIWADAI

中央駅 CHŪŌ STATION

...

Looks like we made it to the station.

MURMUR

MURMUR

...

...

...

Today ...

...it was warm out again.

MURMUR
ガヤガヤ
MURMUR
Hey, are you hungry?
*Hot Dogs
*Pork Buns
Red Bean Buns ¥99
肉まん あんまん 99円
MURMUR
ガヤガヤ
MURMUR
*¥99 is about $1.
Her family must get along well...
We always split them up at home.
IT'S BEEN FOREVER SINCE I HAD A RED BEAN BUN TO MYSELF!
Aah...
What did you end up getting?
I GOT A RED BEAN BUN!

Azuma-kun inviting me out for a snack means I can die happy now.

SOB

SOB

SOB

It's so good...

With this red bean bun, the last of my savings from my part-time job over Christmas and my meager New Year's gifts are gone...

What with the tea, the shrine visit, the aquarium, and the like...

Is... is it really that good?!

I didn't know she liked red bean buns so much.

Heh heh...

That's true.

Thank you for going out with me.

What's up?

I was just thinking...

We really did see each other a lot over break, didn't we?

Of course!

It's my pleasure.

In that case...

Let's do this again sometime.

...

L—

Let's ...

...

Ah...

I mean ...

You know ...

If you feel like it.

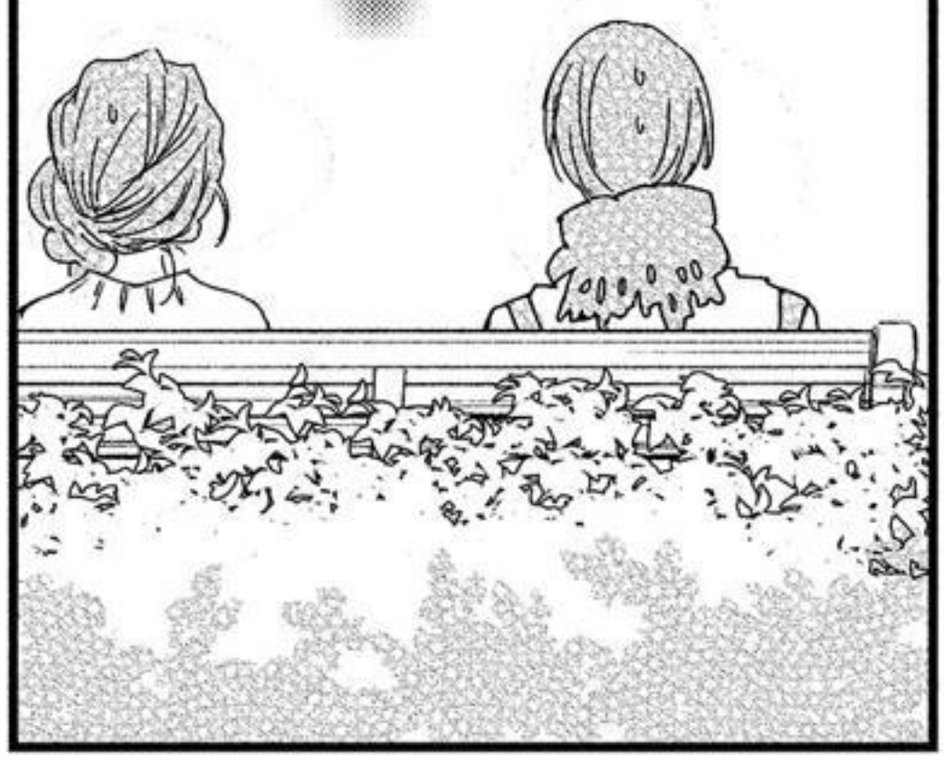
What's with this atmosphere?

...

モグ…

CHOMP

...



...so we should do it again sometime.

モグ

CHOMP

モグ

CHOMP

モグ

CHOMP

I don't get it! Did I say something weird?

Aizawa-san said she liked it...

YES?!

Um...

*Hot Dogs

Do...

Do you mean, like... on a date?

...

I mean ...

Er...

Oh!

um...

I see...

It surprised me.

Oh... I see.

THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP

What if he gets weirded out... or gets weirded out... or gets weirded out...?!

Aaah! Now you've done it, Nozomi! That was too forward!

I see... means what, exactly?! She'd say yes?!

...just the two of us, having tea together, going to a walk, maybe, getting a bite to eat...

But a d-d-d-date is more like...

Eggs ...

...are amazing, don't you think?

E...

HUH?!

WHAT?!

I... I mean... if you fry them, they're good all on their own.

And they're good as an omelette, or over rice...

And you can steam them to make custard or *chawan-mushi...

*a savory dish with egg custard, veggies, and shrimp, eaten with a spoon

...

PFF

HA HA HA...

...

I just think, outside of the staples, eggs are the number one all-round best food.

Why... are we talking about eggs...?

I don't understand her...

...at all.

Yeah.

That's true.

See you later!

Tomorrow, at school.

MURMUR ざわ

MURMUR ざわ

MURMUR ざわ

MURMUR ざわ

...once school starts again...

I want to eat lunch with you again.

Yeah.

Let's do it.

And...

HUH?!

WH-WHAT'S UP?

She... grabbed my shirt hem...

Um...

I...

Before...

Just now...

I was thinking it would be nice... if it was a date.

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP



Heya.

Welcome back.

I KNOW!

You know...

Shouldn't you do something about that obliviousness of yours?

Someday it's going to cause trouble for you.

So? What was it?

Another date with Aizawa-san?

It wasn't a date.

We didn't do that, either.

I'm jealous! I wish I could make out with a hot girl like that!

So...

What?

You gonna write another novel?

What's this one about?

He doesn't see anyone or trust in anything...

The only person he talks to is a chatbot he wrote himself.

It's a story of a lonely man.

...it's not coming together, though.

Sorry I'm boring.

Ugh...

As if I could write a story like that.

For starters, writing women...

Keisuke...

...go home.

WHAT? SOUNDS LAME. YOU GOTTA BE BIG AND FLASHY AND BOLD!

WRITE SOME EROTICA.

Every day
is a new day.

VAIO

CLICK

CLICK

...

CLICK

ARGH!

Huh?





To be continued in volume five!


Don't look!
Don't look!!
WAAGH!
Is this your latest?
Ooh!

AZUMA-KUN AND AIZAWA-SAN

Mm-hmm. This isn't so bad, either.

THIS IS SO GOOD!

They grabbed something to eat outside.

You want some?

That's... practically kissing!

Did I just creep her out?

I did already take a bite, I guess. Sorry...

No thanks...

...

...

...

カカ
BLUUUSH

AFTERWORD

Thank you so much for purchasing Volume four of *our Precious conversations*. I figured we'd be lucky to last three volumes, honestly, but here we are now...



I had a lot of fun drawing Azuma-kun, Hamarin and all the lit club girls chatting with each other. I started saying to myself, you know, they kind of remind me of myself...and then other people told me the same thing.

Well, I hope to see you again in Volume five. Until then!

2018年某月　3びこ
Circa 2018　Robico

Our Precious Conversations 4

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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OUR Precious CONVERSATIONS 5

ROBICO

Our Precious Conversations

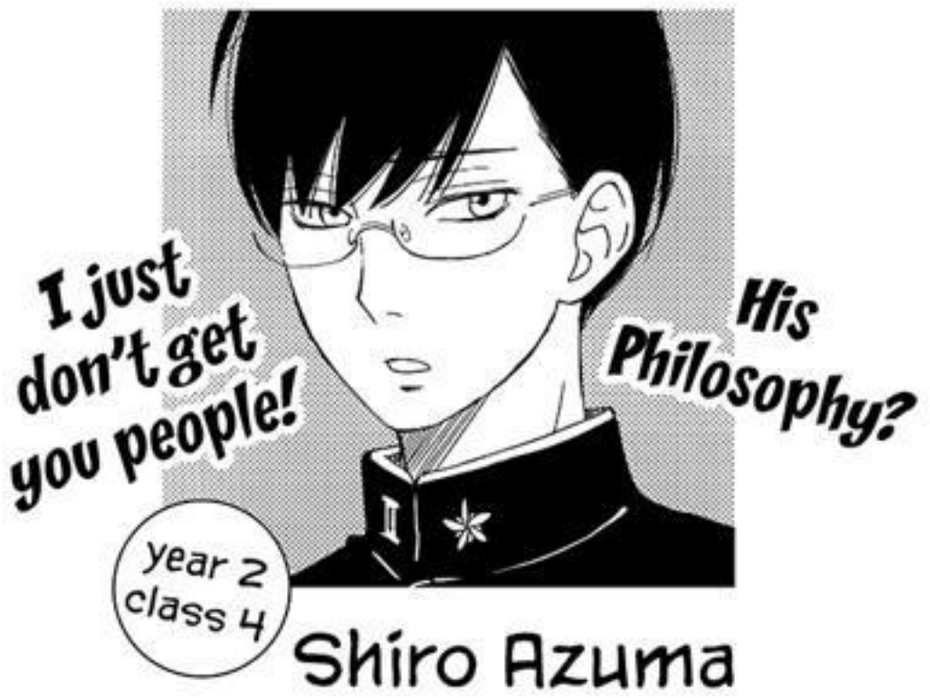
5

Presented by Robiko

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character



Shiro Azuma

This is the boy Aizawa-san bared her heart to. They seem to be getting along well enough now...he thinks...



Nozomi Aizawa

A second-year high school student. After pining for Azuma-kun for ages, she finally worked up the courage to tell him she has feelings for her, but...



Marin Hamada

Aizawa-san's close friend and the president of the lit club. Her nickname is Hamarin. She might be starting to take an interest in Caffeine...!



Caffeine

Azuma-kun's laid-back, kindhearted classmate who can run with just about any crowd.

...And the Rest of the Gang



Kazuomi Tamaki



Kudo-san | Nanashima-san | Hachigasaki-san | Nakagawa | Keisuke





story

Nozomi Aizawa had been pining in secret for her schoolmate, Azuma-kun, for quite some time...but she finally worked up the courage to tell him how she feels! But she just can't seem to catch a break now. He spurned her advances as "wrong," saw her panties, and even nitpicked the hand-made gifts she'd put so much work into! Undaunted, she continued to converse with Azuma-kun daily, and over time, they grew so close that they started spending their lunch breaks together at school. And after spending all winter break with Aizawa-san, Azuma-kun seems to be falling for her, too...!

ep. 22

January Means Ten Times the Romance

Not that I'm *not* looking...

And why is it that every time I ask this question, all I hear is, "*you* sure are looking close?" it's an honest question!

Girls change back into their uniforms without taking *off* their gym clothes, right? How do you *do* that? Without peeking out for even a moment?

The chill in the air, and the contrasting blue and white of the sky, seen from the school windows...

The sweet morning air of a new term...

I have a really good feeling about third term!

MURMUR ざわ

BRIGHT & CHEERY

Yeah!

MURMUR ざわ

ウキ♪ ウキ♪

FOOSH...

That person...

She was like...

...a beautiful porcelain doll...

BYE BYE!

SEE YOU!

キーンコーン

DIIING DOOONG

Huh?

What's up, Nozomin?

*The Starry Rift by James Tiptree Jr.

Azuma-kun's not here...

すぅー

SLUMP

Huh?

He was totally at lunch, though?

Lunch in the club room as always

Not then! After school!

I used to always peek in on him as he left before leaving myself...

UGH. THAT'S CREEPY.

...but ever since third term started, I haven't seen him in the entryway.

Even during lunch, our interactions are really awkward...

Huh ?!

What ?!

Maybe it's because...

...I said that to him during winter break.

I was thinking it would be nice... if it was a date.

Oh, come to think of it...

I'm sure it's fine.

OH NO! DID I MAKE THINGS WEIRD BETWEEN US?!

AH!

...I did see him hanging around yesterday.

In the library.

図書室

LIBRARY

SHH...

I won't get in his way.

I'm just going to check up on him.

Just one look, then I'll go home.

BA-DUM

BA-DUM

BA-DUM

CLACK

...

!

DOKI BA-DUM!

She noticed me!

SMACK!

Ow!

Hey!

Wake up, Shiro!

Wh—?!

I wasn't drool-ing!

What the hell do you want, Suzu?

Don't just nap in a puddle of your own drool.

...

You have a guest.

Wh—!

Aizawa-san!

Your aunt?!

His mother's sister...

But they're so close in age!

Suzu-chan-sempai? Isn't that being overly familiar?

Shut up. All women are nice to one another.

Yep.

Third year student, Suzu Ichino-miya.

She's the youngest of my four aunts.

Nice to meet ya.

Call me Suzu-chan-sempai.

And don't go smacking people, either!

I wish he would call me by name, too...

Shut up, you creepy blabber.

I'm so jealous!

I'm... jealous.

FLASH

Still... it's just his aunt! His aunt!

But she's just his aunt!

I was completely in shock. Azuma-kun even calld her "Suzu" with no honorific!

So, Aizawa-san...

What brings you here?

...

OH! I SEE.

MAKES SENSE.

AWK-WARD

A BALD-FACED LIE

Oh! I, um...

I just... wanted to check out a book...

I'm not like Renge-chan and the others. I don't give a rats ass about you.

Don't worry. I ain't about to tease you.

I can't take it!

What? You too self-conscious or some-thing?

Why are you over here, anyway, Suzu?

Go away!

Azuma-kun is being rude...

Why? Embar-rassed to talk to a girl in front of a family member?

It's so difficult!

Fine. Have it your way, Shiro. I'm out.

I'm gonna be late, anyway.

See you.

You too, Nozomi-chan.

Were you with Ichinomiya-sempai?

Well... nothing, really.

So why were you at the library?

Beats me.

But I've learned not to question orders from my aunts.

So has my dad.

Why?

When third term started, she just told me to come to the library every day after school.

WHAT?! EVEN MORE THAN YOU DO?!

I have four aunts...

...and if you say one word to any one of them, they'll pay you back a hundredfold.

And among them, Suzu, who you met...

She's remarkably prone to violence.

So, as you can see, I have no choice but to obey.

To put it simply... they're scary.

Compared to my aunts, the girls from my class are like little kittens.

Ever since then, she's had the nickname "Bloody Suzy."

Once, when she was a kid, she invaded the secret hideout of the neighborhood boys and beat them all up by herself.

But, more importantly...

Incidentally, Keisuke and I were there, and we got floored by her, too.

I... I SEE...

Somehow...

...we ended up walking home together.

BA-DUM

What about now? Is this okay?

BA-DUM

I'm not letting my nerves show, am I?

I've just barely been able to scrape by staying calm during lunch...

Hm? What?

*AZUMA VISION

I was thinking it would be nice... if it was a date.

Ever since then, I've been too self-conscious to talk freely...

I can't take it!

My heart's pounding like crazy!

I see...

But, still...

I can't help but think...

...it wasn't meaning-less.

What was that all about, then?

図書室
LIBRARY

I came again...

WHISPER
WHISPER

Something has to be up.

HUH?!

Shiro's not here yet.

I told him to go buy me a cream bun.

You. Bread run. Now.

What is this, code?!

BANG!

!!

...

That's nice.

This must be how you show your affection.

It's cute.

SHAAK

Hm.

Is there someone...

...you'd like to show your affection to, Ichinomiya-sempai?

... Yeah.

There is.

But I can't tell him.

So I don't plan to do anything about it.

There's not much longer until I graduate...

I thought, maybe I should put my faith in this farfetched what-if...

Hey, Suzu!

SHAK

Could she mean ...?

HMPH.

WHAP

I just bought one of everything so you wouldn't send me back!

VOOM!

IF YOU JUST TELL ME TO BUY YOU A BUN, HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO KNOW WHETHER YOU WANT A CREAM BUN OR A MELON BUN OR A RED BEAN BUN OR WHAT?!

THAT'S JUST COMMON SENSE.

OBVIOUSLY I MEANT A CREAM BUN.

AIZAWA-SAN?!

But is that a good idea?

Is it really okay for me to be here?

Since I was here, I said...

...I might as well stay.

Hey, Suzu!

...it just has to be about Azuma-kun, doesn't it?

That conversation...

WORRY

WORRY

Something she can't say... only until graduation...

They're blood relatives...

*Let Your Money Grow While You Sleep
by Kenichi Minase

No way.

I'm definitely never telling you, Shiro.

Can't you see you're troubling her?!

You've got to cut the crap!

You can't just drag Aizawa-san into this!

Oh, Azuma-kun, I'm not...

At least give us a reason!

What are we doing here?!

WHAT?!

I'm a very busy person, you know!

I have things to do!

Come on, already!

...

お金は寝かせて

Not to a girl!

Maybe she just can't be honest about her feelings.

N... Now, now, Azuma-kun...

Y... you don't have to be that hostile!

You think too highly of her, Aizawa-san.

There's no way she has a legitimate reason like that!

She's the kind of person who only cares about her own desires.

And somehow I always get involved!

She made me buy sticker chocolates with my own money and then took the stickers!

That's the kind of person she is!

A...
U

Azuma-kun...! Calm down!
U

HER, A GIRL?!

I REFUSE!

NO LONGER WILL YOUR TYRANNOUS WAYS–

IF SO, I DESPAIR FOR THE WOMEN OF THIS WORLD!

URGHAAH!

宮

A—
AZUMA-
KUN!

H-SSSS

Azuma-kun was definitely in the wrong.

HMPH!

Suzu-sempai…

So, you came after me.

You're such a nice person, Nozomi-chan.

I'm every bit as bad as Shiro says.

I know that.

There's no way any-one...

...would fall for someone like me.

But no matter how bad I am at it...

...I don't have the strength to give him up.

There's no universal valuation for time. It's a limited quantity...

Thanks to that, I've wasted all these years...

...but it's yours to spend on whatever you think is most important.

Nozomi-chan...

There's no such thing as wasted time.

Hey!

Suzu!

Shiro!

VOOM!

Sempai?

WHAP!

Sensei!!

Very good, Ichinomiya!

You work hard in your club, too!

Yes!

Are you studying? You're an exam student, after all.

Yes!

Oh, if it isn't Ichino-miya!

You're still here at school, I see.

Make sure you get home before dark!

Yes!

...

Yes!!♡

ENTHRALLED

I did it! I saw him!

Oh, god...

I love him SO MUCH...

I'm so glad I was keeping watch!

I knew he'd be by this way!

AAAH!

AAAAH!

He said I was very good!

He said I was a hard worker!

Waaah! He noticed me!!

...

HEY.

ONE WORD OF THIS TO RENGE-CHAN AND THEM AND I'LL BEAT YOU TO DEATH WITH MY BARE HANDS.

That was why?!

She ended up showing her affection anyway...

Aah!

Aah!

Shut your hole!

After that...

Aah!

I'M SO SICK OF THIS!

THIS IS THE KIND OF PERSON SHE IS!

SEE, AIZAWA-SAN? SEE WHAT I MEAN?!

CRACK

CRICKLE

CRACKLE

You'd better just shut up and do everything I say for the rest of your miserable little life.

If I didn't have you here, I'd be beside myself with anxiety.

Oh, get off it! She said herself that she doesn't mind.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU GOT AIZAWA-SAN WRAPPED UP IN THIS!

Aizawa-san continued to join in...

...on Suzu's afterschool ventures.

GIMME A BREAK!

I already said I was a busy man!

...and I'm especially thankful Azuma-kun isn't her target.

I don't mind being included with Azuma-kun...

Huh?

My novel manuscript is gone!

Fine.

RUMMAGE RUMMAGE

I'll have to use this time for re-reading and ediing.

Azuma-kun, the Boy Who Can't Tell One Kind of Bread from Another

You.
Bread run.
Now.

3:29 PM

Bread?
What bread?
Melon bread,
cream buns, what?

3:34 PM

Hey.

3:34 PM

Answer me, Suzu.

3:34 PM

I'm not going to buy anything for you if you don't.

3:39 PM

I said, answer!

3:41 PM

Hey!

3:42 PM

Guess I'm off the hook for that bread run, huh?

3:45 PM

Don't you dare get angry at me. Not even if I come back empty-handed!

3:48 PM

I'm begging you. Please tell me what you want.

3:52 PM

SUZU

Suzu Ichino-miya-sempai is in her third year of high school.

She's Azuma-kun's aunt.

...but she's very sweet.

Oh! Nozomi-chan, you dropped your handkerchief.

You hungry? I've got snacks.

Hey, walk me to the bathroom, will you?

Thank you!

She can get a little short with Azuma-kun...

...it's hard to say how good she is with boundaries.

Hee hee! Nozomi-chan, you're cute.

Still...

...You don't act like that with Azuma-kun, do you?

Nah. I wouldn't want him to get too comfortable and start throwing his nasty socks in with my laundry.

She's a touch eccen-tric.

Maybe we're both girls, but my heart's racing!

Aizawa-san's final verdict on Ichino-miya-sempai:

AH HA HA HA!

BA-DUM

バ-ドゥム

BA-DUM

Azuma-kun now spends his time after school every day in the library, in a proverbial garden of beautiful women...

Let's review the previous events of Our Precious Conversations!

Not here either!

Mornin, Azumacchi!

Hey there, Azuma!

Not here!

Not here!

creativity

delusion

self-consciousness

combined

human nature

aspirations

shame

What if...

...someone were to read it?!

STUMBLE

... if I died.

Nobody would blame me...

My novel manu-script...

?

It's gone!

ep. 23

Azuma-kun's Pen Becomes Dull

This manuscript I found outside the club room...

...

Recollections of F

それは突然だった。
彼は郵便受けの中にあった白い封筒を受け取ると、一つ息をはいた。
予感めいた黒い塊りが胸の中

God, this story really irks me!

Okay, so, it's self-satisfying, and the claims the story makes are chock full of prejudices...

The male lead is contrary for the sake of being contrary, too.

It's in your face and difficult to parse, that too...

It's clearly unfinished.

It's got this kind ...different of... feel to it.

I don't think it's by one of my girls ...

But...

This part.

Fallen Leaves

I wonder...

How did the author's mental state change while composing it?

CROSSWORD
クロスワード
生活用品
HOUSEHOLD GOODS
WINNING
DAILY ASSISTANCE

Are you okay, Azuma-kun?

Oh, absolutely. No problems here.

LEAN

Speaking of, it seemed like you've been searching for something all day...

If you're looking for something important, I could help you look.

Aah!

Well, I suppose...

My name wasn't on it or anything.

There shouldn't be anything about it that would point towards me being the author...

And it's only a copy...

Oh, okay.
...

...how did she know?

MUMBLE
ゴニョニョ

N... no, I'm good.

今月の新刊

*New this month:

After all, she said before that she **wanted to date me...**

Aizawa-san has accompanied me after school every day like this...

They're fun! And you can win prizes!

Look! I brought a book of crossword puzzles!

クロスワード
当たる 生活用品
生活必

She has to still like me, right?

The nuance has shifted slightly!

No, no! Why am I chickening out now?!

I have to stay positive!

Azuma-kun...

But... what if she turns me down?

S-so... what should I do? Ask her out again?

シンキニュウキニュウ
BA DUM
BA DUM
BA DUM

Is that so?

I'm glad.

I'm so happy...

...you invited me on this date.

エヘヘヘ EH HE HE

ウフフフ

アハハハハ AH HA HA HA

アハハハ AH HA HA HA

Wait! Please!

Come back!

Why?!

Aizawa-san?!

I love you! ♡

This...

...wasn't what I thought it would be.

RAAAAGH!

Ah...

I'm worried.

Are you sure?

SLIP

Mu...

JUMP

ビク!!

Wh... what's wrong, Azuma-kun?

*Literature

文化

HUFF ハアッ

HUFF ハアッ

It's... it's nothing.

Those eyes... looking at me like I was garbage...

SHHK

HUP

ぽっっ

ガラ

BA DUM BA DUM BA DUM BA DUM

ニヤキ ニヤキ ニヤキ

Hiya, Nozomi-chan.

Suzu-sempai! Good after-noon.

Hi there, Shiro.

You seem to be enjoying yourself.

BANG!

H-HOW DO YOU MEAN?!

I didn't say a thing.

You seem to be in a good mood today, Suzu-sempai.

Did something nice happen to you?

...

Well...

Yeah.

This morning, while I was doing club suff...

SHHH

Hey! Ichino-miya!

Working hard watering plants again today, I see!

Keep it up!

...is how the conversation with Sensei went.

*Don't walk & text!

歩きスマ禁止

You really love him, don't you?

Yeah.

*Kaitai Shinsho
Absolute Justice by Rikako Akiyoshi
The School of Lies by Tomomi Aoki
Prohibited by Teruha Akeno

*Thou shalt not step upon the flowerbed.
—Gardening Club

Keep it up!

You're a first year, right? Working hard even over break, I see!

REEEE

REE REE

REEEE

Oh!

CREAK CREAK

CREEEAK

It was summer beak of my first year.

When we first met...

...I was gardening then, too.

WAIT JUST ONE TINY LITTLE MINUTE!

Ever since that moment, I've been deeply in love with him...

I have exchanges like that with my teachers all the time!

I'd wager every single student in the school has had at least one!

I mean, he is a good teacher, to be fair!

The conversational distance between the two of you hasn't even closed by a single inch in the two and a half years since then!

And anyway, exactly what part of that made you fall for him?!

I'm only here because *you* wanted company on your filthy errand of stalking Noro-sensei! I never asked to hear about a relative's love life, much less be involved in it!

On this very day, I say to you, no!

What's this? You jealous?

That's a rather strange fixation you have, considering I'm your blood-related aunt.

Ah. So. Lutely. Not!

You see, if such a relationship actually existed in this world, we would need to call the moral character of the man into question!

For— wargbl!

SMACK

But isn't that just self-serving validation seeking?!

It seems nearly universal, judging from girls' comics, that you women love teacher-student romances!

*Don't make a scene.

さわがない

The whole genre holds within it a latent contradiction!

You come to school and you come into contact with adult men, who in a certain sense are something special, and you imagine what it would be like to have one be interested in you, right?

Azuma-kun!

I wasn't even really listening to what he was saying, but something about it pissed me off.

In times like these, don't hesitate to be *direct* with him, Nozomi-chan.

I don't even read comics!

HISSSS

一ノ宮

PUSH

Hmph. What does "I'm in love with my teacher" mean, anyway?

That petty thing you women call "love" would be utterly obliterated if we so much as suggest splitting the check!

I believe student-teacher romances exist where such hurdles can be overcome with the couple still intact!

Ugh... damn... If I can't beat her with words...

a big fan

...

I'm seriously wondering if you've had a traumatic experience!

You're getting paranoid again!

Azuma-kun, please calm down!

You... you jerk! Dating would be inconvenient for him!

Just give it up! I feel sorry for the men you fall for!

Leave me alone, Aizawa-san!

Of course I haven't!

I wasn't even talking about that!

I—

はっ？

HFF

...

RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE

I have!

...I have.

Come now. The lady doth protest too much.

Have you forgotten the diaper incident from pre-school?

Just who do you think had to change you, hm?

RUMBLE

Hey, can you believe it? Things actually went well with the boy I saw today!

I definitely have!

Ah ha ha! Men really are such idiots!

Oooh, Shiro... that's a big book you've got there!

Oh, Shiro! Run and buy me a Gari-Garikun bar, will you?

I'll show you my boobs! Heh heh...

... Azuma-kun doesn't seem to be in a good mood.

Ever since then...

ズーウーン

GLOOOOM

Huh?

Take-tombo.

The "diaper incident ..."

Was it really that traumatic?

My neighbor, who taught me to make bamboo helicopters ...

Oh, right!

The one that your aunt dumped and badmouthed?

Yeah.

He was so nice ...

So strong ...

I... ...really loved him.

What is that?

"His looks just weren't there."

When the autumn leaves began to be shed...

...and the two acquaint-ances had their first conflict... this scene here.

Argh!

Aah!

TUG TUG ガシ ガシ ガシ

TUG

It's just not coming to-gether.

Wait. Who's even speaking this line here?

I mean, I wrote the thing, but...

Yo.

You're home, I see.

If you want dinner...

...I bought some *oden* while I was out.

KA-チ

CHAK チャ...

I don't even understand...

...my own feelings, anymore.

Ugh... I should just give it a rest for now.

1 STEP

OOD

Suzu!

You gotta quit sneaking off home by yourself.

It's not fair to Aizawa-san.

It's better this way.

See ya.

How selfish can you be?

Like hell I'll let them knock me off pace any more than they already have!

No! Five pages a day!

The novelist I was reading the other day...

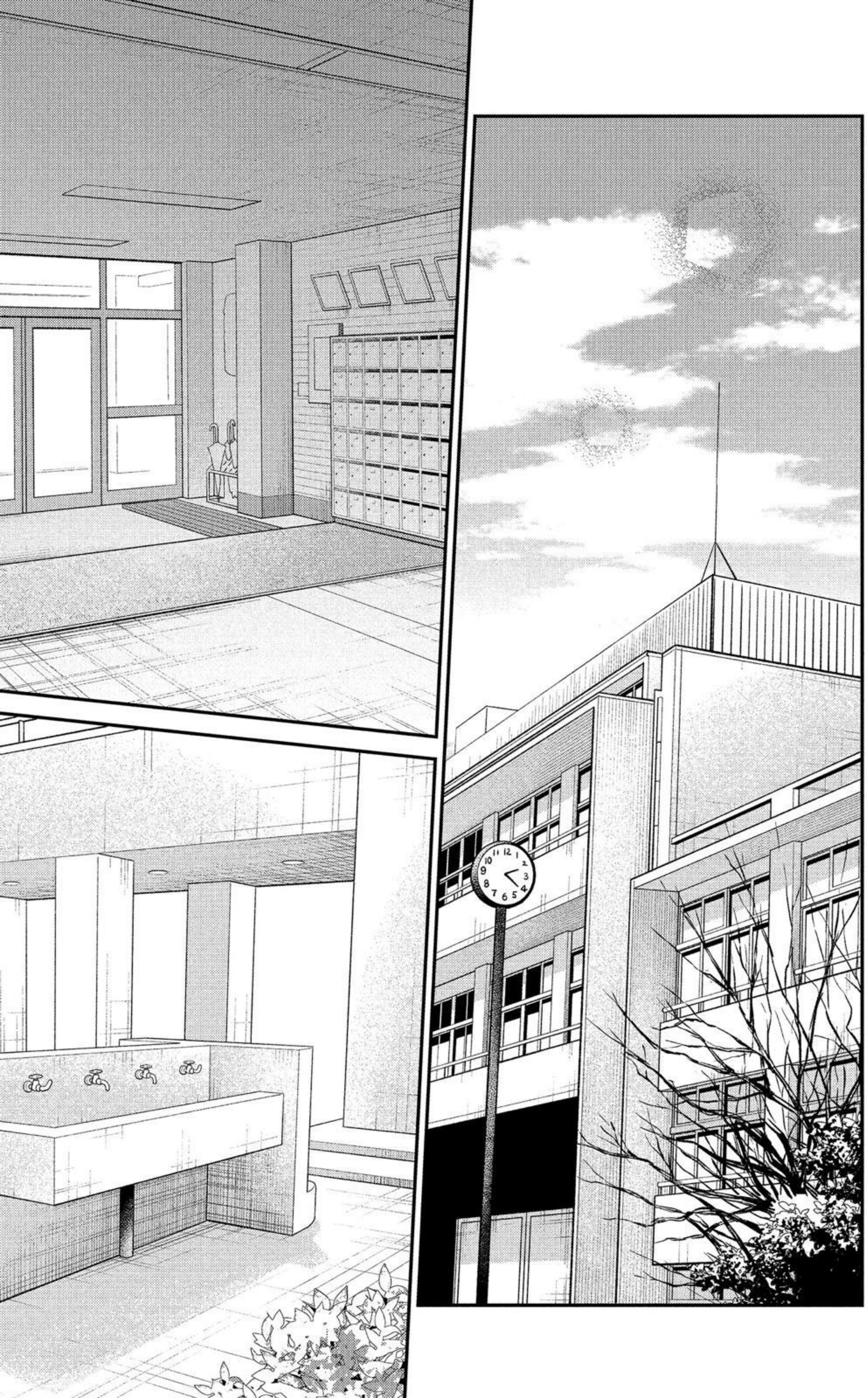
He said he writes a little bit each day, no matter what.

Every one of them!

They're all irrational!

THUD

Aah... I've got no motivation at all.



図書室
LIBRARY
Oh!
Aizawa-san!
DIIING
キーン
DOOONG
コ
The Home Where I Died by Keigo Higashino
Hm? What's up?
確認
Huh?
Um
Oh, um...

Yeah. You had a committee meeting, right?

I was just wondering how things were today.

I missed having lunch to-gether ...

I can't just say I was staring...

...

Hm? What's up?

I had a regular old lunch in the classroom. Keisuke and them came over.

Well ...

Yester-day you didn't seem to be in high spirits.

I'm just glad you're feeling better.

If the two of us had been raised together ...

...my life would be immea-surably different now.

Huh?

Huh?

I don't think anything's being thrown out.

Don't you think that's unreasonable?

Just throwing out human nature like that?

My hand?

Your hand...

世界

You know... My aunts used to say...

Whether and how you can hold hands with a guy...

...that will tell you whether he's no good.

I'm sure...

...you can still touch.

But...

...I don't think that's sound reasoning.

I...

I SEE.

KER-THUMP

KER-THUMP

KER-THUMP

KER-THUMP

AH...

Maybe he's not feeling well, after all...

HUFF

KER-THUMP

Just now...

KER-THUMP

...that was...

That...

KER-THUMP

KER-THUMP

...just now...

'SUP? SENSEI'S TAKING THE DAY OFF TODAY.

His family's having a funeral.

LET'S PULL WEEDS.

SHHK ガーッ

I'd better ask her...

... on a date!

I-

Excuse me...

Not sound reason-ing, huh?

Seems like every woman's intuition ...

...is a complete mystery to me.

SKURCH ぢぢぢぢぢぢ

In the end ...

...I still never invited her out.

Damn you, Suzu...

If you have the sensitivity required to water flowers every day, how about you return my pillbug that you drowned?

ぶちぶちぶち SKURCH

Yeah, yeah, whatever. Shut up.

*Gardening Club

I borrowed the kettle from the Literature Club!

I MADE TEA FOR YOU!

AZUMA-KUN!

SUZU-SEMPAI!

文芸部

Still...

*Literature Club

I want to get to know you better...

I wonder what happened?

...inviting her out will be easy-peasy.

If I give it my all...

SKURCH

SKURCH

What's he doin'?

No need to rush.

Well ...

What-ever.

What's that? Azuma?

That's right... No need to rush.

カラオケ
会員特典満
フリータイム
ドリンクサ
薬のヤマグ
コンタクトレ
近日オープンメ

*Karaoke

#7 MURMUR

He's really pretty...

#7 MURMUR

Wow! Isn't that kid kinda cool?

#7 MURMUR

Is he a model or something?

What school is he from?

#7 MURMUR


I can't very well call this a date...
I can't help but notice he didn't call this a date...
Literature Club

THE DRAWING BOARD

Wait a second. Why were these two fighting in the first place, again? Not that the story will go anywhere if they don't fight...

Now for the scene where they're arguing as the autumn leaves fall all around them...

Now he's bickering at the drop of a hat. Maybe she touched a nerve, but how low can your boiling point be?

Didn't the main character say he wasn't much of a fighter early on?

I mean, she's got her circumstances and all...but it's clear I'm putting the narrative before believability here...

Not to mention, it's a little odd that the girl can just turn around and go "I was lying" after all that's happened, isn't it?

Writer's block sets in quick when what you want your characters to do doesn't gel with what they would do.

I'm getting nowhere!

Aaugh!

Seems like all these shoujo manga protagonists take off running at least once, huh?

**-kun, you idiot!

**ko!

What's wrong with that?

Just off an ← all-nighter

Trembling Love!

SHF

Excuse us...

Are you busy? Wanna hang out?

*KAIKIN AIR CONDITIONING

KAIKIN カイキン エアコン

Should we do it?

Aah! Aah!

Let's do it!

PEEK PEEK

Sorry.

I'm not really...

...in the mood for that right now.

ep. 24 The Prince's Rebellion

2－1

Even after recounting his trauma, Azuma-kun blows his chance.



Let's review the previous events of Our Precious Conversations!

All he needs is the courage to take that first step.

RUMBLE

Azuma-kun is secretly confident.

All he needs to do is ask her out!

RUMBLE

There's a good chance that if he asked Aizawa-san on a date, she wouldn't turn him down!

...is as immobile as a mountain!

Their relationship...

ARE YOU FREE-

He can't!

Melon buns are on special!

DASH!

Hey... how about we...

We...

Yum!

But he can't take that single step!

2-4

I heard Prince Tamaki from class one...

...is on strike!

I BET IT'S 'CAUSE THOSE CLASS ONE HAR-LOTS WERE SHOWIN' OFF HOW THEY HAD ALL THE CUTE GUYS!

SERVES THEM RIGHT! HA HA HA!

HA HA HA

UGH...

You know how the Prince is basically a huge banner ad for the class one, right?

Seems like he said, "I don't wanna do this any-more," and walked off!

Should I make him fall for me and discover true love?!

Could this be my opportunity at last?!

I just don't get hot people!

Even though he was living the good life of a popular guy!

I thought he was a space alien or something!

Eh, he's always been a little eccentric. Remember when he got that crazy haircut?

unintentionally a killjoy

Why should he have a relationship with someone like you at this late stage?

Fundamentally, men desire love free of restrictions.

I'm just talking what-if here.

I'm sure even the Prince gets crushes on people!

Now, now! You don't know that!

I doubt that. Not with him, at least.

He doesn't seem to be the "eternal soulmate" type.

*TAMAKI

環

TAMAKI Shot through the heart!

...so, we think it might be Aizawa-san.

TAMAKI

TAMAKI

TAMAKI

TAMAKI

祭

祭

祭

祭

Our love for him kept building, and somehow it became "I'd die happy if the one I support makes it to the top!"

Suzu-sempai does gardening club stuff, waiting to cross paths with Sensei.

I don't think that's the kind of thing Tamaki is after.

Yes... but right now, this is how we have to be.

I expected you'd be more dazzling than this!

Hold on a sec. Since when have you guys been like this?!

♥ TAMAKI ♥ We love you!

He'd pretend to be my boyfriend in front of my ex...

I wanted to brag to my friends back home, so we'd go all around town, hand in hand, shopping eternally...

We know that. We let our imaginations lead us into overdoing things.

That sounds like hell itself.

When we gave it some thought, we pieced together that he went off-kilter around the same time he got close to the two of you!

That's why we think he's in love with Aizawa-san.

But lately, he hasn't wanted to do that with any of us!

Nothing at all!

Tamaki's happiness is our only wish!

...what would you four want me to do about it?

Even if that idea holds water...

Well, I think you're overthinking things.

CLUMPED UP

It's really not okay to idolize regular-old boys like this!

Now hurry up and change back into regular clothes!

That's why Tamaki's trying to distance himself from you!

AND LEAVE THE GLOWSTICKS BEHIND!

GOD, I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO BE SO MEAN.

HE'S JUST JEALOUS!

LET'S BOUNCE.

WE JUST WANTED TO SEE IF YOU FELT THE SAME WAY!

You've gone too deep into the maniac fan mindset!

They're all gone now, Tamaki-kun!

ビク

JUMP

Now, then...

RRRGH

ぐぬぬ

Those girls have gotten more and more extreme lately...

Recently they were talking about making a photobook of me!

A photo-book?

I can't thank the two of you enough...

That was a huge help.

It's a little out there...

And they thought *you* liked *me*?

He he he...

*RISING STAR

MEN'S

A photobook, huh...

But in a way, it's flattering to be paired up with the Prince.

That said, it's never okay to make a girl cry.

Well ...

Um ...

Oh ...

OH!

If you don't reject them head-on, they're bound to be hurt by it.

JUST LIKE MY BABY BROTHER.

Oh, by the way, Tamaki... I found a pretty nice video the other day. Let's watch it together next tme.

Sorry. I'll be right back.

Sure!

Hamarin asked me to get her some books.

TIP TAP TIP TAP

Azuma-kun...

...how do you feel about Aizawa-san?

BA-DUM!

Huh?!

...You know... for the first time...

...I really liked being called "Prince".

...

She's a good... ...friend.

Oh, is that all?

That's a relief.

I think...

...I might be in love with Aizawa-san.

What's wrong, Tamaki-kun?

I brought this apple...

Would you like some? I'm pretty talented at carving.

You can have some, too, Azuma-kun.

SHK むぎゅ SHK むぎゅ SHK

BA-DUM!

トゥキーン

AN APPLE ?!

Huh?

Is he hiding from those girls again?

It's not that... my legs just carried me here before I knew it.

The Prince!

It's the Prince!

He got rid of that awful haircut.

Oh, by the way, Aizawa-san...

AN APPLE SWAN.

That's amaz-ing!

...

Now, quick! Let's eat it!

Tamaki!

So... where does that leave me? An unwelcome third wheel?

MUNCH むしゃ

MUNCH むしゃ

He's casually spending time with her... and going out of his way to make her happy!

It's so tasty!

A butterfly, in flight!

The classic actions of a man in love!

...

I can't ask her out like this...

...I run into Tamaki-kun a lot, lately.

Somehow...

...just like my dog, Justine!

PANT PANT PANT PANT

THUMP THUMP

This feeling I have is a little strange, but I kind of like it...

Tamaki-kun is...

Why did she have to leave me behind...?

No! Bad Justine!

Justine... oh, that sweet, stupid dog...

This is a 1/1000 scale model of the Sagrada Familia.

What?! That's amazing! YOU CARVED THAT?!

By the way, what's that you're up to?

Just finishing up something I started in art class.

Since I haven't been hanging out with everyone lately, I've had a lot more free time...

What's wrong?

Oh, it's nothing. Just remembering a dog I had.

You're the only one...

But I bet if I showed it off to everyone, they'd say it was unbecoming of a prince.

...who sees the real me.

Thank you. It feels like you're always looking after me.

SMILE

HUH? NO, I'M BEING SERIOUS, HERE!

IT REALLY IS AMAZ-ING!

People are like mirrors of one another.

I think the people you've gathered about you...

...weren't influenced by "the Prince", but rather by your natural charm.

Is that true, I wonder?

I really don't think it is.

After all, she's the only person to compliment me like that.

Aizawa-san is special.

That's...

...the first time anyone's said that to me.

I knew it.

He he he...

I wonder...

...what would Azuma-kun say if he saw this?

It's true.

He might compliment me, too.

...

I'm sure he'd be surprised, at the very least.

I wonder, as well.

I...
I...

S... since when...

Hm? Oh, I've known since basically the beginning.

Or at least I've always had an inkling.

You really do like him...

...don't you, Aizawa-san?

WHAT?!

BLUSH

Don't... don't tell Azuma-kun, okay?

...he won't want to spend time with me anymore!

If he knows I like him...

There's not a man on earth who isn't delighted when a girl tells him she likes him.

I don't think that's true.

Including Azuma-kun.

I'm sure he'd be happy to know how you felt.

MILL ABOUT

What's up, Azuma?

committee meeting

Caffeine! Did you know...

If a man has a hand-some face...

...the love points of every woman in a five-meter radius go up 20%.

Is this from a video game?

They are open, thank you.

FLUSTER FLUSTER

Damn it! Why do you make those Buddha-like faces, anyway?!

Open your eyes! C'mon, nice and wide!

Azuma-kun!

Can I go to my club meeting now?

Tamaki!

She wanted to wait until your meeting was over.

oh! Tamaki!

Let's walk home together!

Aizawa-san is waiting in the library.

Oh, Azuma-kun.

I only said "might be."

I "might be" in love."

MURMUR

oh, you!

MURMUR

H-huh?

What about you?

You don't want to come along?

Next time...

...I'll send you a good video, too.

Tamaki!

See you later... Azuma-kun.

?

?

What was that all about?

Hm? Oh.

It's just... I'm in love with this girl.

...I want to see the girl I love...

...smiling and happy.

That's what we talked about.

And so...

...

SHHK

Aizawa-
san...

Azuma-kun!

I made you wait...

I'm sorry.

It was fine!

I just spent some time perusing the books.

Tamaki-kun was here a minute ago.

And Suzu-sempai, too.

She caught sight of Sensei and disappeared somewhere.

I see...

Hm?

3-1

So, have you heard, Aizawa-san?

Madame Minami from the phys ed department is getting married.

Huh?

That's something worth celebrating!

*Monthly schedule:

It must be the end of the world.

She'd better treat that partner of hers well.

Eh he he...

You shouldn't talk like that, Azuma-kun.

*Please obey the due date!

Did you see the school store? Nikuman are back!

I voted for.

I did!

That was voted on in the all-school assembly, wasn't it?

I see!

Just the two of us?

Do you want to go out some-where?

So...

Just...

...the two of us.

...

...

...okay.

And just like that...

...their date was set!


No!
Tamaki-kun, no!
Hey! Someone dropped some cookies...
He's drawing out Aizawa-san's old habits...

THE CLASS 1 GIRLS

Tama-ki's Entou-rage

They're a little too *high-main-tenance* for me...

They're real put together!

Man, the class one girls sure are great, huh?

Who the hell asked you guys?

Gross.

Tamaki

*Tamaki, Shot through the heart

*Tamaki, I love you!

The Entou-rage at Full Throttle

YOU GUYS SURE AREN'T HARD TO READ...

You've gotta do something, Tamaki...!

So, what'd you think of the last batch? Pretty good, huh? Wait till you see the doctor set. Dentist, even!

You're all about cosplay, huh?

FA-
FLAP
DUNNA-
DUNN
DUNN...
FLAP
FLAP
DUNN,
DUNN
DUN...
HEY, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO *FEED* THE PIGEONS.
NOT SCARE THEM.
DUNNA-DUNN♪
DUNNA-DUNN♪
FA-
FLAP

ep. 25

School ♡ Scramble

Guys sure are easy to understand, huh...?

You think he's into me?

He's *always* flirting with me, that pain in the ass.

Yeah...

That mop-top friend of yours. Keisuke.

What brings this on?

I'm an innocent bystander, here!

Hey! If you wanna hurt Keisuke's feelings, fine, but leave *me* out of it!

...and even more annoying.

He's even higher-maintenance than you are...

Oh, *I* don't mind!

School Grounds Close at 6:00 P.M. Library Club

Seriously, why won't he just *go away*?!

I gotta say, I've never been trash talked *to my face* before...

What do *you* think, Keisuke?

KA-CHAK

Blegh.

I AM SITTING RIGHT HERE, YOU KNOW...

You wanna hear what that mop-top did to me?

Who told *you* you could just barge into a guy's bedroom, anyway?

I'm family. I'm allowed.

This is *Shiro's* room, isn't it? And I'm his old friend.

Who told *you* you could barge in here, anyway? I know you're stubborn, but god!

Let's open up all his bookmarks.

CLICK, FWIP FWIP FWIP

*MUSEUM

*GOOD CAFÉS NEAR ME

*DATING TIPS

*ART MUSEUM MAP

That dork's thinking about going to an art museum!

Is this a date?! It's gotta be!

And then a café...

Hey, Keisuke, look at this!

YOU TWO DID THAT?!

SORRY, MAN...

Hey! That story was about me!

Can you believe that?

WH-WHO SAID AIZAWA-SAN WAS–

How are you gonna know what to do? You'll just clam up!

Kaede-chan* asked me to Google something for dinner tonight!

*Azuma's mother

SO YOU *DO* HAVE A DATE...

You won't make Nozomi-chan happy by puffing up your chest and acting all mature, you know.

More importantly, Shiro, you *can't* follow through on this art museum idea!

W-well, that was the only day our schedules aligned!

WHAT?! THAT'S, LIKE, TWO WEEKS FROM NOW!!

After finals.

...

Sooo, when's the big day?

Man! Girls sure do like to talk romance, huh? Even girls like her!

...AT ALL!!

YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, DO YOU?! WOMEN ARE CREATURES OF MOOD!

BY THEN, SHE WON'T BE IN THE MOOD TO GO OUT WITH YOU...

GO ON, THEN! WAIT TWO WEEKS!

...was glowing, day in and day out.

Aizawa-san's skipping ...

She's skip-ping...

La-la

Laaa!

Meanwhile, Aizawa-san...

Because she knew that in two weeks' time, she'd be going on a date with Azuma-kun!

DO I, REALLY? HEE HEE!

OH! HELLO, THERE, CLASS FOUR GIRLS!

HEY, AIZAWA-SAN! YOU LOOK LIKE *YOU'RE* IN A GOOD MOOD!

Why, you ask?

Bye-byyye!

If you want to make a woman happy, you need to learn to dangle the carrot a little!

BOING

BOING

I wonder where he's taking me!

The brighter a woman's hopes for the future, the brighter her mood...

What do I wear?

...for she can focus on those hopes until they come to pass!

Then, unless you **really** screw up, she's sure not to get angry with you until the day of!

...let alone gone on one.

Incident-ally, Suzu has never even been asked out on a date...

...and Azuma...

Aizawa-chan sure was in a good mood, huh?

Something real good musta happened to her...

Kudo-san, year two, class four...

...was in love with Azuma-kun.

Nana-shima

Gross! Shut up!

Hachi-gasaki

Beats me! Maybe she's just been regular lately!

Ha ha ha!

Let's go! Let's go!!

Let's grab some takoyaki on the way home!

Uugh...

I wonder if something is going on between them...?

Lucky...

SNIFF SNIFF SNIFF

RAHH RAHH

After all... I'm a giantess!!

I—I can't say it!

I can't say I like Azuma, too!

Kudo-san had a bit of a complex about her height.

Great...

...they've cut the club's budget again.

But if we don't bring in some new recruits next year, they might disband us...!

Can't say I blame them. It's just me, Kobayashi-kun, and the three first-years, after all.

School's been in session for a month now, and I haven't once so much as said hello.

So much for that socialization training, huh?

I'm hopeless...

ZZIP

That's the volley-ball club!

OH!

...sure are cool...

Those black-and-red jerseys...

...

PEER

BA-DUM

BA-DUM

Eeep!

Hey! Whatcha doin' there, Hamada-san?

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

...

Did...did he see me?! Did he see me looking for him?!

Ha ha ha! You practically jumped outta your skin!

Oh, god.
Oh, god!

Phew... looks like I'm in the clear.

Presidential duties, huh? I just got out of the class cleanup committee meeting, myself.

Aizawa-san was there, too.

I—I see. Well,

I appreciate your letting me know.

Why so polite?

Huh?

Aizawa-san sure is funny, huh?

She's been off in her own happy little world...

It's been a month...

...since the last time we spoke.

Hey, that's my club out there!

!!

...kind of an airhead, so...

W-well, Nozo-min's...

GASP

Huh?

Y-you've got it all wrong! I-I wasn't watching them because I thought I might see you or anything!

Lucky me! Looks like I'm off the hook for field practice.

...

Crap!

U-uhh, well,

I'd... better get going...

Sure...

He knows!

He has to know...

...that I'm interested in him.

Now what do I do?

I just know...

...I've gone and made things...

...weird.

Hamada-san...

Umm...

...if you're cool with it...

...do you want to go out?

猫入れるべからず
園芸部

*Thou shalt not harbor feline guests
Gardening Club

Suzu?

Suzu!

EEEE

That's how I became a member of the Ichinomiya family.

You've got Kaede-chan, Nadeshiko-chan, Renge-chan, and Hinagiku-chan.

They're all named after flowers... except for me.

*Kaede: "Maple flower," Nadeshiko: "Fringed pink," Renge: "Lotus," Hinagiku: "Daisy," Suzu: "Bell"

Augh! Kaede-chan, Kaede-chan! Shiro's pooped his pants again!

And they've all got the same hair color... except for me.

Those were my only complaints.

Great... We're all out of fertilizer.

Hey. Shiro. You and Nozomi-chan run along without me. I'm going to be a little late.

So she's my...great-aunt? Second cousin? I forget.

That's... pretty hazy...

My grand-father's younger brother's daughter or some-thing.

Yeah. She's actually, uhh, my mom's cousin? I guess.

She was adopted?

W-well, that tracks...

Besides, no matter what you say to her, she just replies, "hmph!"

I mean, how much attention do you pay to where your parents' relatives fit into the family tree?

Oh, Azuma-kun, quit it!

It's not like it matters. None of it changes the fact that my aunts are the bane of my existence.

It was on the hottest day of summer...

...that I fell in love with Sensei.

KREEEEEEEEEE

Your friend's bringing the school nurse over right now.

Oh! You're up, huh? Thank good-ness!

I can't help but remember the day my dad left.

When summer comes...

Luckily, I happened to be passing by...

You sure did! Gave us all a good fright, too.

BLINK

...

I re-mem-ber him ...

Did I pass out, Sensei?

KREEEEEEEEE

Parents are parents.

I'm sure he just wasn't strong enough to be there for you.

Well, you weren't to blame.

Oh, great.

What the hell am I...

...bringing this up for?

Well, I should go.

I'll get in touch with your homeroom teacher for you.

Sorry, Noro-sensei...

My head is killing me.

Yeah, I'm fine.

You've got a bump!

What were you doing out in the heat without a hat?!

SHHK

Oh, Suzu!!

Are you all right?!

EEEEEEEE

...
sensei
...

...

Noro
...

KREEEEEEEE

DUNN-
DUNN-
DUNN,
♪
DUNN-
DUNN-
DUNN
♪

DUNN
DUNNA-
DUN, ♪

We won't be at the same school...

...for much longer.

I wish I could have had class with him at least once...

...but at least he remembered my name.

And just like that, I was head over heels for him.

I was too embar-rassed to ever talk to him...

Hey, Ichinomiya. You headed home?

一ノ宮

Burning the midnight oil, eh? Atta girl.

SENSEI!

Careful on your way home, now, you hear?

YES!

It's dark out.

RIGHT!

Sensei...

...do you think you'd mind walking me...

...to my parking space?

Oh, yeah... You ride a motorcycle to school, don't you?

I wouldn't mind at all. Let's go!

...I never wanted to go to college in the first place.

But when I said that to Mom, she really let me have it.

Sure is cold, huh?

Yep!

Have you figured out where you're going to college yet, Ichinomiya?

Yep!

You've got good parents.

...

She did, huh?

Yeah, I guess so!

But as pretty as you are...

...you'll always have me beat.

I guess...

...when I'm your age...

...I'll be an adult, too, huh?

Sensei, how old are you?

Me? 29.

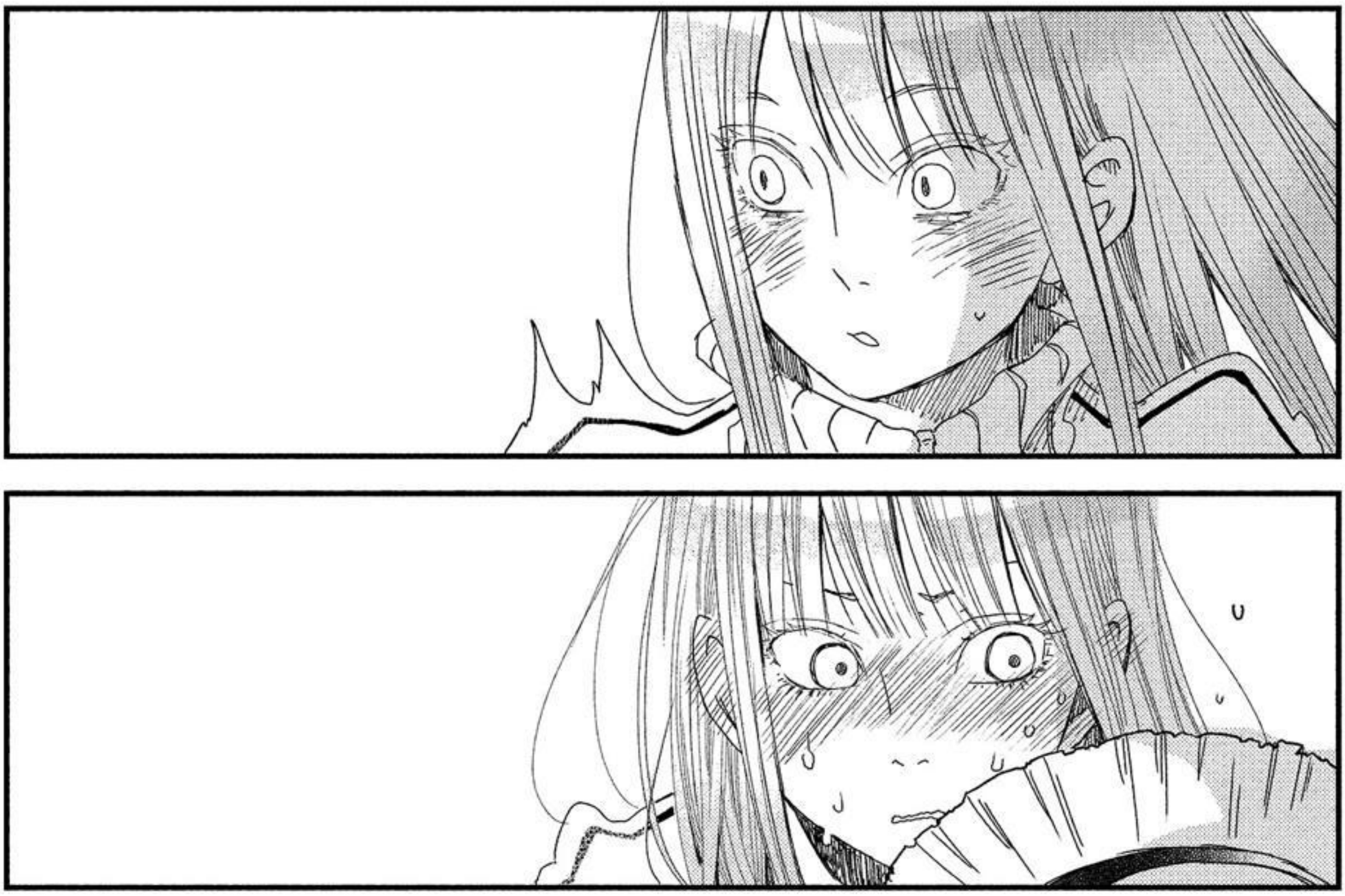
Umm,

...

I mean, I already know...

WHAT?!

Long in the tooth already, huh, Gramps?







I wonder what kind of adult you'll turn out to be...

Rrghk ...!!

Ghk...

Ghk ...

She's over the moon

Some-day...

...I want to marry a guy I love...

Sensei,

I, uhh,

And then...

...and have kids.

have a dream.

...I want to start a big, happy family just like the one I have now.

Wow! You've got it all figured out, huh, Ichinomiya?

SO FIRST THINGS FIRST, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO THROW MYSELF INTO MY WORK, HAVE MY FIRST KID AROUND 28, FIND A NICE, WHITE HOUSE THAT'S WALKING DISTANCE FROM A GOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BY THE TIME I HAVE THE SECOND AND THIRD...THEN WE CAN GET A DOG...

Well,

that's a good dream.

一ノ宮

I love you,

Sensei.

Thank you,

Sensei.

S-Sensei! Are you all right?!

Owww! I always forget that step...

OOW!

FW-THMP

でででででっ

Maybe I'd better propose...

What a klutz... Cute!

Ha ha!

How embar-rassing...



I love you,

Sensei.


Hey.
You there. With the glasses and the stupid bangs. Go buy me a red bean bun.
And don't expect me to pay
*Orange
Hey there!
Suzu's friend, A-chan
Come on, quit picking on your nephew!


LATER THAT SUMMER
Oh! N... Noro-sensei!
Ichino-miya!
KREE-EEE-EEOOO
Huh?
I just stopped by the staff room.
Good timing. Here. They said you can use this.
Don't you dare get heatstroke on me again.
EE-EEOO
みーんみんみん
KREE-EE-EE-



I love you,

Sensei.

...

Hmm ?

What's the matter, Ichino-miya?

Well, yeah. I got hitched.

Oh, this?

Ha ha ha!

...that ring on your finger.

Mmm...

I just... ... happened to notice...

I haven't told everybody yet...

...but my girlfriend... Well, wife, I guess!

My *wife's* been on my case about wearing it.

BUT I JUST CAN'T GET USED TO IT! I GET SO SELF-CONSCIOUS...

So stupid! Augh!!

BOOSHK

PSST

Have you, uh, heard what they're saying?

How could I be so stupid ?!

No...?

テンペスト

ロミオとジュリエット

*The Tempest

*Romeo and Juliet

WHUMP

グロロロ

You heard that, too, Sempai?

Yep.

返却日を守って下さい
図書委員会

*Please return your books on time. -Library Club

He told me himself.

Something like that.

HA HA HA!

WELL, AREN'T WE MATURE!

NOT THAT YOU HAD A SNOWBALL'S CHANCE IN HELL TO BEGIN WITH!

STILL! HOW OPEN-HEARTED YOU-

But you know...

...I want him to be happy.

I'm happy for him.

BIFF

What do you think you're doing?!

GRKT

UNCLE!

GRRKKT

UNCLE!

UNCLE!

...

Suzu-sempai...

Nozomi-chan!

Club duties, huh?

You sure are working hard...

TSHH

TSHH

TSHH

Yep! I mean, now's the time and everything.

Come spring, this'll all be flowers.

No kid-ding!

園芸部

*Gardening Club

Don't get me wrong.

I don't want him to like me back, exactly.

It's just ...

FSHHH

Yeah ...

Whoa !!

So! Noro-sensei, huh?

I mean, it's good news and all...

...but it *is* sort of a shame...

But when I think to myself, well, so much for that, I just get...

...so sad...

Maybe we'd bump into each other at reunion or something...

...I guess I was holding out hope that I'd graduate, move out, grow up a little, and then a few years down the line, we'd happen to meet again...and take things from there.

*This sure is a...**detailed** fantasy...*

But the whole time...

...this was just wishful thinking.

I always knew...

...I only had eyes for him.

Now my first love is over...

...and all I did was ***watch*** him.

If I can't be with him...

...I wish I'd at least told him I loved him.

My first love...

...was the same way!

But I can't bring myself to let you know.

I can't even approach you, let alone talk to you.

I like you.

I like you, Azuma-kun.

LET'S DO IT!!!

?!

I SAID, LET'S DO IT! WE'LL GO FIND SENSEI...

...AND YOU CAN TELL HIM HOW YOU FEEL!

But I don't want you to stay quiet now and regret it later!

*Why is **she** crying, anyway?*

H-HUH?!

NO WAY!

I CAN'T. I CAN'T!

WELL, SURE IT WOULDN'T!

BESIDES, IT WOULDN'T DO ANY GOOD!

...

But what if I cause trouble for him?

All you're doing is telling him how you feel!

How could *that* possibly cause trouble?!

H-huh? You think?

OF COURSE I DO!!

DON'T WORRY! I'LL BE THERE FOR YOU!

BESIDES, YOU'RE THE CUTEST GIRL IN THE WORLD!!

TMP

...

But, I mean... it's so embarrassing! And I'm scared to get rejected face-to-face...

S-say that again.

You're the cutest girl in the world!

Here goes nothing!!

...

All right!!

...I didn't want to go out with a whimper, either.

To tell you the truth...

If I'm fated to die, I might as well breathe my last charging into battle!

Nozomi-chan... after I'm gone...

...make sure I get a proper burial?

That's the spirit, Suzu-sempai!!

WHOA.

WHOA.

WHOA, WHOA, WHOA.

What happened here?

I believe I heard something about "telling him how you feel?"

Yeah! Suzu-sempai's going to tell Noro-sensei she has feelings for him!

Sob...

SHE'S WHAT?!

But think of all the *trouble* that would cause!

Besides, why are *you* poking your nose in here, Aizawa-san?

I'm... I'm sorry.

It's just... she was feeling down, so...

Why not just leave her alone?

Well, of course she was! She's just been jilted!

How can you be so *cold*?

Cold? *Me*?

Well, maybe, but that doesn't make it right to *impose* on the man!

Aren't you worried about Suzu-sempai, Azuma-kun?

Impose ...?

For crying out loud.

Why can't women ever mind their own business?

Azuma-kun...

...you will never understand what it's like to be a girl in love, till the day you die!!

There you go again...

...lumping every woman in the world together.

ワ

ワワ

ワワ

SNEAK

No kidding!

Your name's Ichinomiya, huh?

Morning, Ichinomiya!

...but if that was all it took for me to tell him...

...I wouldn't have carried a torch for three years.

BA-THUMP

Now it's night...

...and my chance never came.

BA-DUM

BA-DUM

Welp. So it goes.

Maybe I let Nozomi-chan get me all worked up...

Honestly. For three years, all I did...

Ichino-miya!

...was watch him from afar.

Ichinomiya...?

I've, uh...

I've been waiting for you.

Hey!

Headed home, huh?

We sure have been seeing an awful lot of each other lately!

U-UHH ...

...

Hmm ?

Is something the matter?

...this is where we first met, isn't it? After you passed out.

Huh? Hey, you know...

BLUUUSH

I— I can't say it!!

Your eyes rolled back in the head, you were foaming at the mouth...

You scared me half to death!

I'd never seen someone faint up close and personal before!

Kill me...

Is that right?

I don't exactly remember...

Yep!

It was right about here.

You took a pretty big spill!

But you know what else?

Dad...

You started crying in your sleep.

So...

...for the past three years...

...every time I saw you smile at school...

...I breathed a sigh of relief.

一ノ宮

Sorry, sorry!

So, what was it you needed?

I see.

Oh, uh...

... nothing.

I just...

...wanted to thank you.

一ノ宮

He was watching over me too.

Thank you so much...

...for these three years...

... Sensei.

一ノ宮

Well, good night, Sensei.

You too. Stay safe out there, okay?

Thank *you!*

Oh, don't mention it.

Not that the year's over yet, of course...

What's she like?

...about your wife.

FWIP

Sensei...

Oh, you know... normal, I guess.

Good-bye,

Sen-sei.

I'm kind of the one who stirred all this up...

I mean,

... so I can't help but worry.

And she never showed up at the reading room, either...

FIDGET FIDGET

SNEAK

FRET FRET

I hope she's all right...

Jeez.

I couldn't.

Suzu-sempai!

You waited up, huh?

You could have just gone home, you know...

Aren't you cold out here?

BANG!

AIEE!

You know, Nozomi-chan...

... you're sweet.

Don't worry about me.

I didn't have the nerve to tell him...

...but I'm happy now.

Bah!

Aren't we care-free?

Just how long does it *take* to confess you have feelings for someone?

SHIVER

SHIVER

AZUMA-KUN!

Of course, if you *didn't* tell him, so much the better.

What the hell's he doing here?

No sense in dredging all *that* up.

... he's been waiting outside all day?

Don't tell me...

Or in feeling even sorrier for yourself!

HUH?!

Well, see ya.

VMMM

VROOM VROOM

Besides, I'm gonna be living on my own starting in Spring.

Things'll be busy for me.

HUH?!

Oh! I won't be crashing the reading room anymore, by the way.

VMM

VMM

VMM

VMM

I mean, I don't need it anymore!

I got rejected and all.

And you had the nerve to get everyone involved...

Where do *you* get off barking orders?

YOU BETTER WALK HER HOME, SHIRO!

VMM

VMM

VMM

VMM

SEE YOU, NOZOMI-CHAN!

Sure...

Shall we?

I didn't mean what I said.

About today. Listen, uh... I'm sorry.

Sure is cold!

Yeah...

SNIFF ズズ

I figured he'd hold a grudge...

C'mon, I don't remember going that far!

...OF UNDER-STANDING WOMEN!

COLD HUSK OF A MAN WHO COULD NEVER DREAM...

I'M A STUB-BORN, CONTRA-RIAN,

WHY APOLO-GIZE?! AFTER ALL,

Listen, I...

I do have to admit...

...I've never dated before.

It only stands to reason I wouldn't understand girls.

I know you're not like that, Azum-kun. I know you're sweet, earnest...

...and genuine with others.

AH.

I...

I SEE.

I don't get it.

I can't help but look for ways we can be together.

...

I guess this is the last time we'll walk home together like this, huh...?

But what am I supposed to do?

You're...

...kind-hearted...

...and you make for stimulating conversation.

...cute...

So...

Hmm?

What's up, Azuma-kun?

Why did it take me so long...

...to realize?

What is this feeling...

I want to be with you.

...if not love?

To be continued in volume six!



BONUS MANGA: IN THE READING ROOM

*The Tempest

*ROMEO AND JULIET

HAMLET

真夏の夜の夢
*A Midsummer Night's Dream

They decided to give the classics a read...since they're there and all.

How lovely...!

It's interesting, for sure... but why is the dialog so wordy?

So romantic...!

I've only ever seen Shakespeare performed live before!

Because it's meant for the stage, perhaps?

It really is wonderful when you sit down and read it...

Frailty, thy name is woman.

I'd have written it, "fury, thy name is woman," though!

Now there's a line!

What's wrong, Aizawa-san?

?

Be still, my beating heart...

AFTERWORD

Thank you so much for reading volume five of *our Precious conversations.*

I got to tell the story of Azuma-kun's aunt, Suzu, and her crush on Noro-sensei. I've always had a soft spot for these stories where a pretty girl falls for an older guy...

...but I can't wait to tell you *their* story.

I hope to see you again in the next volume!

2018年 12月 某日
December, 2018

Robiko

Our Precious Conversations 5

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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OUR Precious CONVERSATIONS



6

ROBICO

Our Precious Conversations

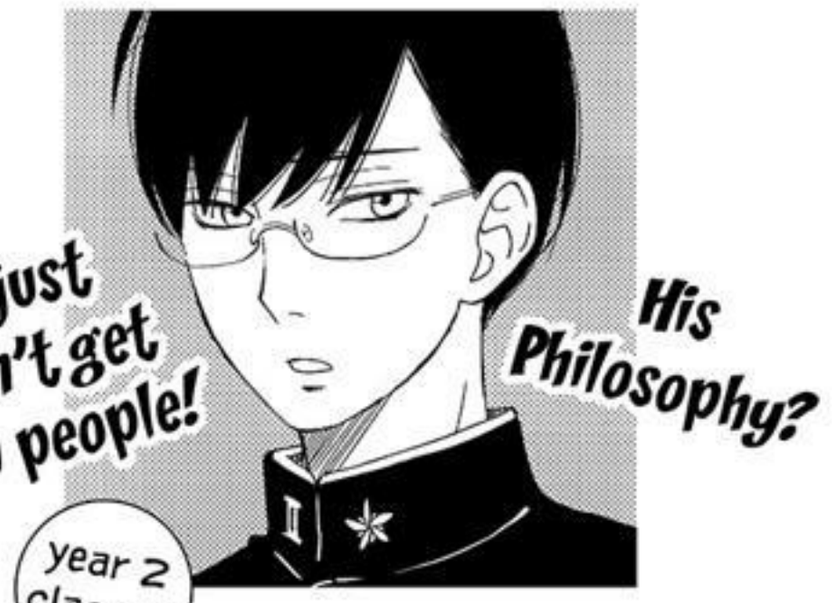
6

Presented by Robiko

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character



Shiro Azuma

This is the boy Aizawa-san bared her heart to. They seem to be getting along well enough now...he thinks...



Nozomi Aizawa

A second-year high school student. After pining for Azuma-kun for ages, she finally worked up the courage to tell him she has feelings for him, but...



Suzu Ichinomiya

The fourth of Azuma-kun's aunts. She had an unrequited thing for one of her teachers.



Marin Hamada

Aizawa-san's close friend and the president of the lit club. Her nickname is Hamarin. She might be starting to take an interest in Caffeine...!



Caffeine

Azuma-kun's laid-back, kindhearted classmate who can run with just about any crowd.

...And the Rest of the Gang



Kazuomi Tamaki



Kudo-san



Nanashima-san



Hachigasaki-san



Nakagawa



Keisuke



story

Nozomi Aizawa had been pining in secret for her schoolmate, Azuma-kun, for quite some time...but she finally worked up the courage to tell him how she feels! But she just can't seem to catch a break now. He spurned her advances as "wrong," saw her panties, and even nitpicked the hand-made gifts she'd put so much work into! Undaunted, she continued to converse with Azuma-kun daily, and over time, they grew closer, and now Aizawa-san's on Azuma-kun's mind, too. In fact, their first date's coming up, but...

ep. 27 Aizawa-san Cares for Azuma-kun

No.

I mean, if you say what you really think, then—

Like, "do you hate me?" "Am I ugly?" "Am I fat?"

Aizawa-san, I'm curious... Why do girls ask all these questions when the only answer they'll hear is "no?"

How...?

How can this be?

Azuma-kun's still home sick?

CHATTER ザワ

CHATTER ザワ

キンコーン DING-DONG

CHATTER ザワ

Yep.

I guess he spent all day out when it was, like, fifty below.

He came down with a nasty fever.

I see... He's been out sick for four days now!

I wonder if he's all right...

Morning!

CHATTER ザワ

CHATTER ザワ

...

Wanna find out?

He must be talking about the other day!

Just how long does it take to confess...

...you have feelings for someone?

...to Azuma's house?

Want me to take you...

Aizawa-chan here just couldn't help but worry about you, so I brought her with me.

Here you go. Brought you some pudding.

Hey, man.

I hear you're not doing so hot.

A-Aizawa-san?!

Now, then, I believe I hear MH calling my name.

Huh?! Wait...

You're leaving me here?

You're going?

TMP

TMP

What's the prob-lem?

What do you mean, what's the...?!

I've never had a girl in my room before! Let alone when I was sick!

...

He can't leave me alone with Aizawa-san now...!

SHHK

Now be good and eat your pudding.

...

Listen, man. She's just here to check in on you.

You got it?

That's it.

And so, we return to the beginning of this chapter...

GASP

I'd better put on this mask...

O-oh, don't worry.

I know he can be a bit bossy, so...

I tried to tell him not to bring me along,

but he kept insisting it was no trouble...

S...sorry I just kinda... dropped in on you.

Come to think of it...I haven't taken a bath in three days now!

Do I smell funny?!

I might...

ZSHU

S-SORRY! GIVE ME A SECOND TO WASH MY FACE!!

BAM

A-Azuma-kun?!

It's only a bath... but then, this is Aizawa-san.

I just remembered I've got somewhere to be ~

She did once retreat at the sight of his leg hair...

And I do seem to recall Suzu badgering me...

This room stinks.

You know why you guys can't get girls?

'Cause you stink.

I'm in Azuma-kun's room!

FWUMP

はぁ…

すー…

SIIIGH

Eek! Eeek!! It's really, really, really his room! You know, it's kind of...tidier than I expected! And I got to see him without his glasses, too! Come to think of it, he said those were for show, didn't he? I totally forgot! Oh, my gosh... So this is what he's like at home?! Eek! Eeek!!

That's his bed...

BA-DUM

ミャミャミャ

BA-DUM

BA-DUM

Throb...

いい



...linger here...

SHFF

HUFF はーっ

HUFF はーっ

This is where he lies down every night... and wakes up every morning.

His scent must still...

So this is where he sleeps, huh...?

BA-DUM ドキ

BA-DUM ドキ

ドキ BA-DUM

HUFF はぁ

はぁ HUFF

ドキ!

BA-THUMP

ばんっ

BAM

Sorry for the wait!!

FLAP ばさっ

ばさっ FLAP

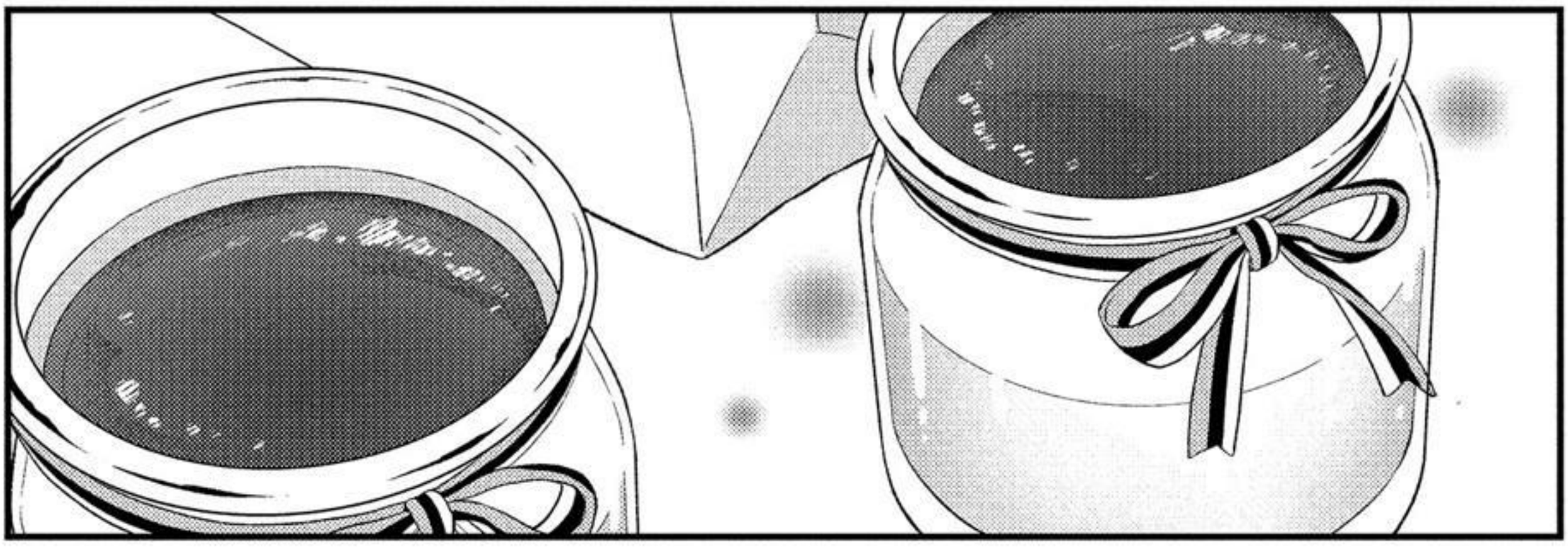
I-I was just thinking, maybe you ought to air this futon out!!

N-nothing at all!

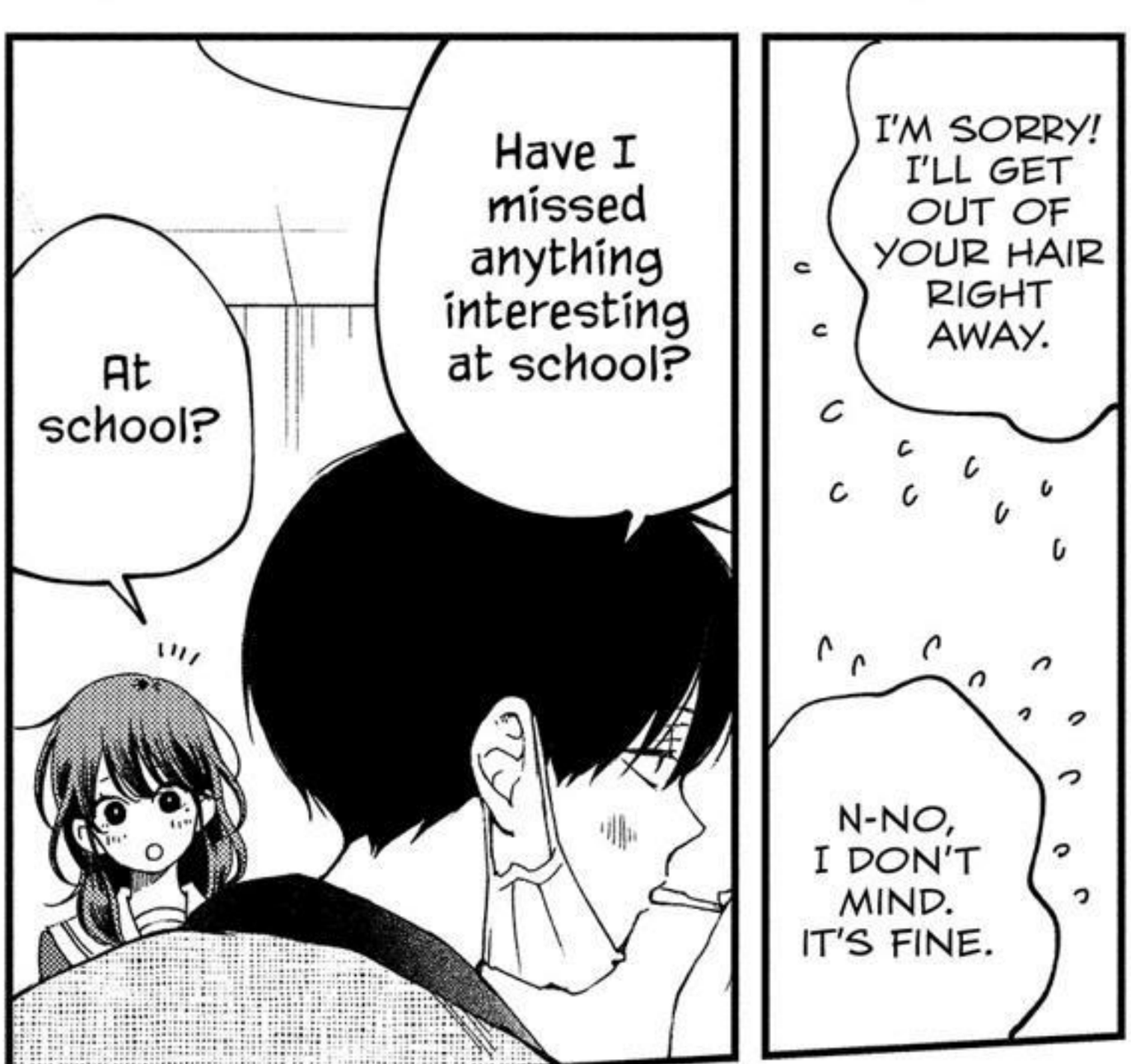
Hmm? What's the matter?

ポタ DRIP

ポタ DROP




But I digress!
* A phrase used when reining in a conversation that's gone off topic.


At school?
Have I missed anything interesting at school?
I'M SORRY! I'LL GET OUT OF YOUR HAIR RIGHT AWAY.
N-NO, I DON'T MIND. IT'S FINE.
S-so, how are you feeling?
You certainly aren't looking so good...
Oh... Maybe not, but I'm a whole lot better than I was a few days ago.
For a little while there, I couldn't even keep food down...
Why on earth would that be?
Well, a little dispute broke out between classes 1 and 4 over Tamaki-kun, I guess.

…

Th-that reminds me, you'll never guess what happened with Hamarin!

——— and then, ——— ——— ——— —

Oh, man.

…

…

What do you mean? It was Valentine's D—

I can't believe this is real...

And then caffeine-kun and I... ～～～～

～～～～ ～～～～

Here I am in my room... with the girl I like.

THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP

Y-you know...

むぐ" MMF むぐ" MMF

I can't even taste this pudding. It might as well be sand...

Huh?

Huh?

What?! Don't worry about it!

...I just sort of waltzed in here without even introducing myself.

Maybe I ought to let someone know I'm here...

No one's home right now, anyway!

UH...

UHH, I MEAN ...

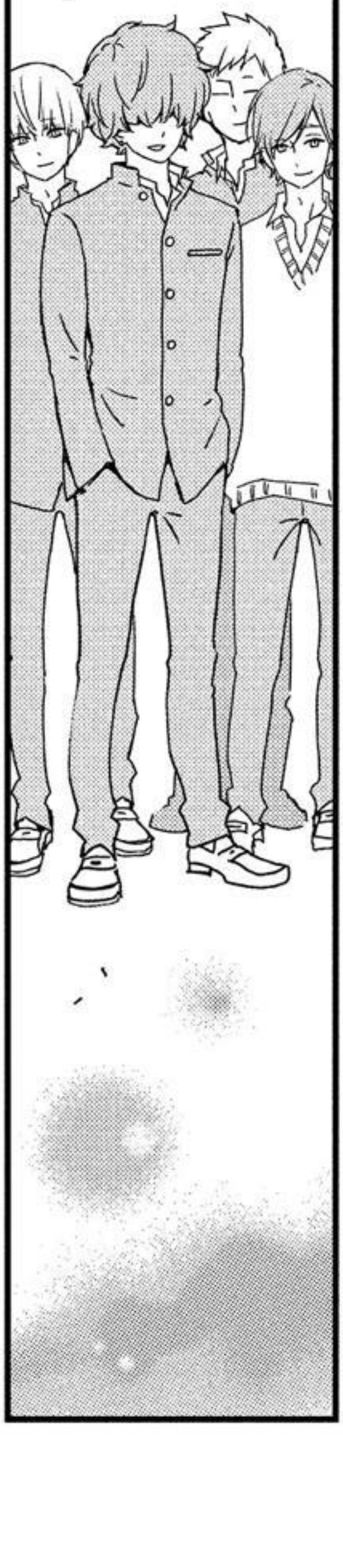
MY PARENTS ARE AT WORK, SO...

They are...?

We're all alone!!

Azuma!

Did you know...



...that when a girl comes to hang out in your room, she's telling you...

...you can do whatever you want with her? ♡

YEAH!

WAAAAGH!!

H-how could I...?! Aizawa-san came here with the purest of intentions! She just wants to make sure I'm all right!!

Whatever you want? That's a self-serving idea...

It's not like that!

You boor!

You absolute boor!!

Oh, y-yeah.

!!!!

I'll have to introduce myself some other time, then.

Is that right?

Too bad!

Look how pure her smile is!

Don't worry, Shiro. You're a gentleman!

HFFF

HFFF

Get a grip on yourself!

Huh?

Hey, what's this?

That's a superhero I was into a long time ago. They reissued it recently.

Oh, that's an action figure. Like a doll, but you can pose it, I guess.

Oh, no! I should apologize! it's just...your room is nothing like my little brother's room, so I can't help myself.

I see. Well, you're free to look around...

So what do you do with it?

Huh...? Nothing, really.

Uh, I... *don't* play with it.

My apologies...

Well, how do you *play* with it?

My novel...!

DON'T TOUCH THAT!

TSHH すぅ

What's this?

Are you all right, Azuma-kun?

You're looking pretty pale.

Huh? Oh, yeah.

Maybe my fever's coming back...

I hid that away so my family wouldn't read it.

How did she find it so fast?!

WHEEZE

せぇ

せぇ

WHEEZE

It was... kinda buried, so it caught my eye...

O-oh! I'm sorry!

It's...it's important, you see...

I'll be on my way as soon as we've got your fever under control!

Do you have anything we can use to cool you off?

Oh-oh no!

I'm sorry I imposed for so long!

Oh, yeah. I think there are some cold patches on my desk...

I'm so happy she came to see me.

I'm so happy.

Look at her, scurrying around on my account!

Aizawa-san is so kind.

You're adorable, Aizawa-san...

...take it.

I can't...

Sorry.

I'll take it from here.

Thank you.

...

U-
uhh...

Azuma-
kun...

I don't...
know if you
should joke
around like
that...

...just...

...J-JUST
BECAUSE
WE'RE
ALONE
TOGETHER
...!!

The thought had indeed crossed her mind.

A-
AZUMA-
KUN?!

Oh!
You're awake, huh,
Azuma-kun?
* *Hinotori* by Osamu Tezuka
Huh? What hap-pened ...?
You collapsed, that's what!
Sorry. I couldn't carry you all the way to the bed...
Come to think of it, the last thing I remember is eating that pudding...
I guess that bath really took it out of me...
Pud-ding...
GRRWL
7"

Don't worry about me, okay?

What about it? There's still one jar left. You want it?

Remind me...did *you* eat any of it?

I have to say, I've never known Keisuke to be quite so *thoughtful.*

Aizawa-san must have helped him pick this out.

Yeah.

Do you like it?

I loved the kyoho grape and La France pear jelly from the Teio Grand Hotel the best!

Oh, I wish I could taste it again...!

W-wait a second here... When I hear "jello," that's not what I picture...

MMF むぐぐ

MMF むぐぐ

You know, growing up, my family always gave me pudding when I was sick.

No kidding! My family always gave me jello.

Hee hee!

Aizawa-san's family must be rich...

I *do* prefer Pucchin Pudding, though. The one that's shaped like a flower.

So you liked it, then?

I'm glad.

Aizawa-san...?

!!!!

I like the texture, you know? Nice and smooth.

I suppose this is what women like, though!

It's nice and chic.

This, on the other hand, almost tastes... trendy.

MMF むぐ

MMF むぐ

It's not bad, of course...

I MADE IT MYSELF.

I'M... I'M SORRY.

What ?!

VALENTINE'S DAY?!

I mean, it was Valentine's Day yesterday and all...

HUH?

HUH?!

But I thought you might not like it if I told you it was homemade, so...

Keisuke-kun told me you like pudding, so I thought I'd give it a try...

Sorry I went with egg custard pudding, I guess...

what?!

I just got back myself.

Aizawa-chan's in there.

What ?!

Gah! Suzu!

Shh! Shhh!

You sicken me.

Hey. Kei-suke.

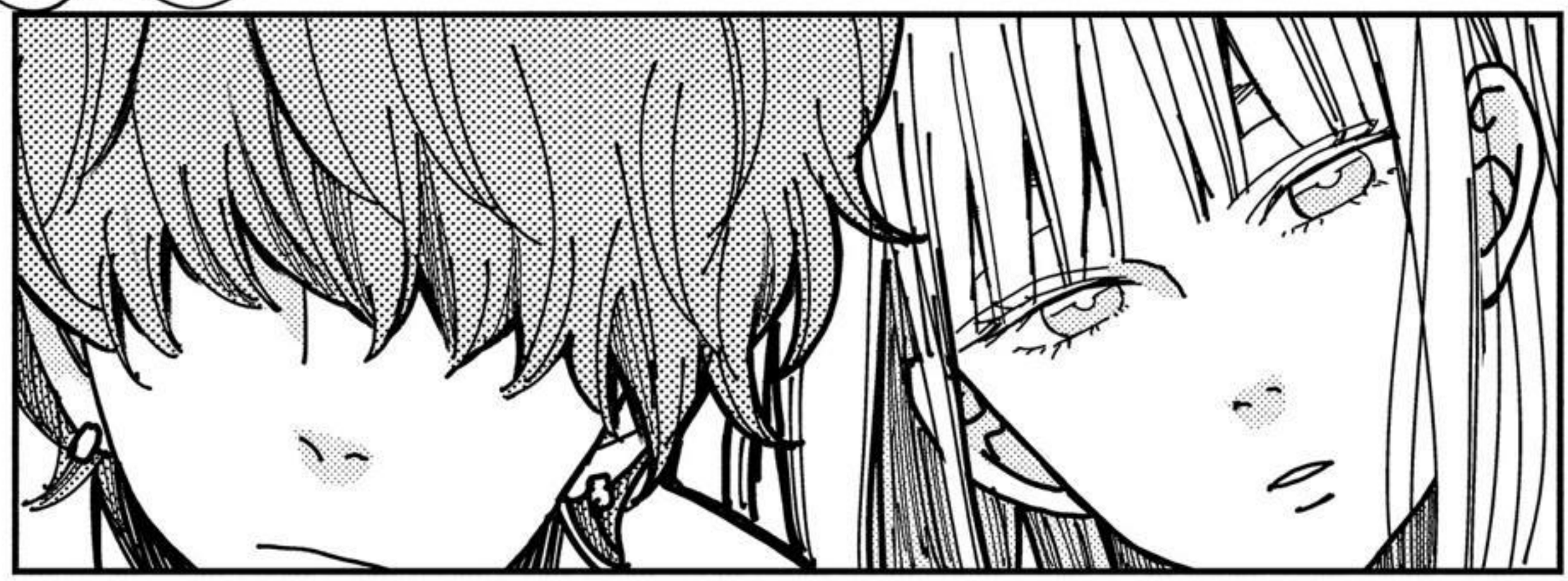
What are you doing peeking in on a *boy's* room? And here I thought you couldn't stoop any lower.

Y-you don't think they're... **flirting** in there, do you?

No, I doubt that!

But we might get to watch Shiro squirm a little...

SNICKER SNICKER



What's going on in there?!

Some kind of pudding sermon?

Now, don't get me wrong, I do like Pucchin Pudding, but that's certainly not to say I can't appreciate something a little more rustic now and then!

Azuma-kun's fever has spiked again.

...

Thanks for coming over,

Aizawa-san.

Get well soon,

Azuma-kun.

ゼェ WHEEZE

ゼェ WHEEZE

!!

Azuma-kun's fever got worse before it got better.

Aizawa-san, however, was no worse for the wear.

And Suzu and Keisuke, who couldn't leave well enough alone, found themselves bedridden for a week as well.

Remember— it doesn't do any good to visit the sick if you don't help them rest!

I always have been a touch resilient, I suppose...!

PAGE 15, PANEL 5




WHAT AIZAWA-SAN WANTED TO DO
...now find myself visiting the boy I like, Azuma-kun, at his house! ♡
I, Nozomi Aizawa, age seven-teen... ♡
Get myself a big nice dose of Azuma-kun while he's out of the room! ♡
カ!!
しょ!!
っ
FWAP
There's only one thing to do now! Yep!
I'm all wrapped up in his futon! Oh, my god!!
EEK! EEK!
WHAPPA WHAPPA
バ"ッ
バタタ
タ
バ"ッ
バタ
タ
WHAPPA WHAPPA
Busted Straight Away
び"く"っ
GASP
A... Aizawa-san?


For swimming. So I don't get rusty.
I...I was just doing some breathing exercises under your futon, that's all.
Aha! You scared me. For a moment, I thought you might be some sort of pervert...

our Precious omake Manga: How the Gang Spent Valentine's Day (1)

IT TURNED OUT ALL RIGHT, ACTUALLY

Think how embar-rassing it'd be to get that, too!

Yikes! Laying it on thick, huh?

My brother caught me in the act.

What are you, crazy?

Put yourself in his shoes. This goes beyond creepy. it's scary!

Oh, Ryuji, you're just jealous.

Yeesh!

SHUDDER

You're not getting it...

Don't worry. I made some for you and Dad, too.

I wonder how he's going to react? Oh, my god! ♡

わくHOP わくHOP

Okay! All done! It turned out a little...bold, I guess... but hey, it's Valentine's Day and all!

She's the Type to Get Carried Away with the Details and Lose Sight of the Goal

The next day, Azuma-kun was home sick...

Huh?!

...so I gave the cake to my little brother.

FEVER PITCH

C-count me out!

Let's make chocolates together, Hamarin!

It's Valen-tine's Day tomor-row, huh? ♡

The Day Before Valen-tine's Day

Huh?!

Guess I'll have to go it alone...

Too bad!

Valen-tine's Day...

BA-DUM BA-DUM ドキドキ

I'll just have to... hand it over casually, but still make sure he knows how I feel.

What should I make, anyway...? Wouldn't want to be too obvious.

わくHOP わくHOP

Way Over the Top

LOVE YOU

our Precious omake Manga: How the Gang Spent Valentine's Day (2)

TAMAKI

You can have this chocolate if you go out with me!

My prince!

Sure.

And that was how Valentine's Day couple no one saw coming met...

TO TO

FWEEET

Excuse me?

You there! You are not to go behind our backs on Valentine's Day!

Security

Coming from you!

?! ?! RAHH RAHH

Hey? Are you guys fighting?! I'll back you up!

Why don't you pop your pacifier back in while the grown-ups talk, you little brat?!

Shaddap!

Guys... don't fight over me, okay?

...and everybody blew up.

THE TRIO

Y... You're right...

why'd we even buy them?

Hachi-gasaki

Hey, what do we do? We don't have anyone to give these chocolates to...

Valen-tine's Day

Kudo

Want me to take them off your hands?

Nana-shima

Tamaki! ♡

Oh, my god!

I was thinking I'd give some to Azuma...

...but I guess he's home sick.

Tamaki! ♡

Kudo-chan likes Azuma-kun.

Thank you!

Thank you!

...then maybe I could eat all those!

Wait a sec. If I could go out with him...

They broke up right after.

our Precious omake Manga: How the Gang Spent Valentine's Day (3)

LET'S COOK!



I never ended up **giving** them to anyone... but it was fun enough.

Valentine's Day, huh...? Until last year, I always made time to make chocolates today.



Coming up with toppings and wrappings in all kinds of cute colors...

Melting the chocolate down... firming it up...



You really went all-out again, huh?

Phew...



GOODBYE, VALENTINE'S DAY





Here's some chocolate, Sempai!

Help yourself!

Okay, guys. Meeting time.

During Club Hours



And so, after buying Valentine's chocolates for the first time in her life...

...they lay undisturbed at the bottom of her bag for the entire day.



our Precious omake Manga: How the Gang Spent Valentine's Day (4)





ep. 28 The Bookish Girl, Skybound



What if you catch this from me?

I'm—I'm sorry...

...but I *am* unwell, you realize.

Don't get me wrong, I *appreciate* your coming to see me...

Besides, I wanted to see you without your glasses again...!

...but **Hamarin just had to check in on you,** so...

The Hitch-hiker's Guide to the Galaxy, huh?

Have you read it? What did you think?

YOU KNOW IT?! NO WONDER YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF THE LITERATURE CLUB!

Oh! Here you go. I brought you some Pucchin Pudding.

Oh. Thanks...

Not that I ever mind lending an ear when I can, of course!

And here I thought you were here for *advice*...

JOLT

AH, A VISIT FROM THE PRESIDENT HERSELF! I MUST SAY, IT'S AN HONOR!

I got carried away last night and read it till the wee hours...

I *LOVE* THAT STYLE OF HUMOR!

IT'S WONDERFUL!

I know what you mean.

OH! DON'T TELL ME YOU *DO* NEED ADVICE, AFTER ALL!

...

HE-HE *WHAT?!*

F-from the top? I mean...

I couldn't tell you what brought this on, either!

We were just...talking out in the hall the other day, and he dropped the bombshell!

BUMP BUMP BUMP BUMP

C-Caffeine-kun asked you out?!

H-how did **that** come up?

Tell me every-thing! From the top!

HEY! SHHH!

Do you want to go out?

Yeah...

Oh, my god! There's no uncertainty **there!**

Huh ?

So? What did you say?!

What? Why?!

I...I didn't.

YOU KNOW! YOU'RE GOING OUT NOW, RIGHT?

HOW DID YOU ANSWER HIM?! I BET IT WAS SO ROMANTIC!

What do you mean ...?

What?! Well, you've still got time to tell him you like him back!

And it's not exactly like he gave me a chance to answer...

Hey.

Hey, Caffeine!

I mean... someone else showed up right after he asked, for one thing.

But I can't imagine why he would.

I mean, it's not like we got along all that well before...

What if it's just a misunder-standing? I could die!

Why would he ask **me** out?

I can't shake the notion that this is all some kind of mistake!

What do you **mean**, why? Because he **likes** you, obviously!

No... I can't.

WHY NOT?!

What a shame! I mean, he asked her out...and she likes him!

Okay, fine.

If you're so sure this is all a misunderstanding...

...we'll just have to get a **boy's** opinion.

Please, Azuma-kun!

Help this bashful girl see...

...how much he loves her!!

Hmm?

Why do I suddenly feel so much pressure ...?

Urgh ....!

What can I do for you today?

Well?

WHY, IF ANYONE *ELSE* WENT TO SUCH GREAT LENGTHS, IT WOULD BE TO ASK ABOUT THEIR *OWN* PROBLEMS!

HA HA HA! LOOK AT YOU, DROPPING IN ON A SICK MAN ON YOUR FRIEND'S BEHALF!

That's just how you are, I suppose!

Somehow, I thought she might play the "friend" card...

I've... I've got this friend, you see...

Well, this friend of mine ...

... there's this boy she likes, you see, and he just asked her out.

But she's not sure he really meant it, so now she doesn't know what to do...

Ed.: Hamarin is **very shy about the subject of romance.*

Jeez... I wish you'd just come out and say it!

FIDGET もじ もじ FIDGET

Uhh, good question!

MUMBLE ボソ

I think he's cool, anyway ...

Why are you so embarrassed?

Hmm, hmm...

It just didn't feel *genuine!* Like, why *would* he ask her out?

She's not sure?

What about him?

Is she popular with the guys here?

No, not at all.

むぐ GULP

GULP むぐ

I suppose so. They say hello when they run into each other, anyway.

So this friend of yours, and the boy who asked her out... Are they already acquainted?

I get it.

I see!

HE'S NOT SERIOUS ABOUT HER.

Coolness is a matter of life and death for men, you see!

If this guy's capable of asking out a casual acquaintance on a whim, I'll lay you odds he's been with his fair share of girls!

Listen well! The more genuine a man's feelings for someone, the less forthcoming he is about said feelings!

WHY, YOU ASK? BECAUSE THINK HOW *UNCOOL* HE'D LOOK WERE HE REJECTED!

Ugh! You've got it wrong!

All wrong!! He's a good guy!!

ガラッ RAGH!

GASP ビクッ

Do you want to go out? おい…

AND HE WAS SO NON-CHALANT ABOUT IT…! だってよ…

I…I KNEW IT! I MEAN, HE *DID* SAY HE'S HAD GIRLFRIENDS BEFORE!

FWAP

WELL, TELL THIS FRIEND OF YOURS TO STAY AWAY FROM GUYS LIKE *THAT*!

HA HA HA!

Well, I suppose there is the possibility he likes her...

Why complicate the man's confession...

...with all this talk of "what he really means?"

Aizawa-san's anger has taken the wind out of his sails.

THAT CAN'T BE!

I...I just do.

How do *you* know, Aizawa-san?

And you're the ones who demanded I hear her out...

Aizawa-san's impressed with him, huh?

Huh...? I mean, it's not like I *know* the guy...

Are you *hearing* yourself, Azuma-kun? The *moment* you get to feeling better, you start spouting this nonsense!!

Hmm? Wait a second.

This wouldn't be that friend of yours you told me about who was so rude on New Year's, would it?

Aren't you friends? Go easy on her...!

SHE HASN'T DONE ANYTHING TO *MAKE* HIM LIKE HER!

THAT'S THE *LEAST* PLAUSIBLE ANSWER HERE!

NO WAY!

Y... YEAH.

The one who was throwing tissues on the ground? Failing to show an ounce of appreciation when people deigned to strike up a conversation with her?

Y... YEAH!

...

I've thought it over a million times and I just can't see why he'd like her!

I just keep wondering, what if this is some kind of joke? Or just a misunder-standing!

I KNOW, RIGHT?!

I JUST DON'T GET IT!

...Why did he ask *her* out?

WA... AAAGH !!

Hard to argue with that!

POINT TAKEN, BUT IF THIS LITTLE TALK OF OURS IS ANY INDICATION, YOUR FRIEND WILL BE HARD-PRESSED TO FIND ANYONE *ELSE* WHO LIKES HER. SHE LIKES HIM TOO, RIGHT? WHY DOESN'T SHE JUST QUIT FRETTING AND TELL HIM YES?

But ...

But how ...?

How can she do that *now*?

Well, you know...

...the normal way?

By giving him an *answer*?

But...

...he's already tried to reach out to her twice now...

...and she blew him off both times!

When She's Paying for a Giant Beef Bowl

But he always chooses... ...the worst possible time!

When She's on her Way out of the Bathroom

HE'S JUST GOING TO THINK SHE'S AVOIDING HIM!

WHAT IS SHE THINKING?!

EXCUSE ME?!

I KNOW.

BELIEVE ME, I KNOW!

Kill me

Three Little Pigs

But she just doesn't know...

She was happy!

She really was!

...what to do!

If nothing else, I think it took a lot of courage ...

...for this guy to open up to your friend.

She can start by telling him that.

Well, there you go.

Don't you think it's her turn now?

...if you're cool with it...

Umm...

...

All this time ...

I see.

...I've only been thinking of myself.

Yeah.

I didn't even think to look him in the eye...

INCIDENTALLY, IF YOU'RE WONDERING *WHY* I THINK IT TOOK A LOT OF COURAGE FOR HIM, THAT'S JUST HOW MOST MEN ARE. WE CAN'T SAY HOW WE FEEL UNLESS WE'RE A HUNDRED PERCENT SURE IT'S GOING TO WORK OUT.

DAMMIT! I CAN'T...! I'M NOT READY YET!!

Pretty Much a Green Light

That's ...that's so *sensi-tive!*

I'd be willing to guess he's feeling quite jilted at the moment.

Don't mention it.

It's not as if I don't understand how intimidating it is to let someone know you like them.

For hearing her out, I mean.

Thanks.

Azuma-kun...

I just hope...

What is that...

...supposed to mean?

What?!

...things work out...

He still doesn't get it?!

...FOR HER FRIEND.

What?

What?!

...

ふ

UHH...

...

SCRATCH ぽり…

UH...

G-

GOOD...

Morn-ing.

...MORN... ING...

I can't look him in the eye...!

WHOOSH WHOOSH WHOOSH

I can't do it.

...

Aah... Look at his hair...

?

S-sorry.

It's just, I saw you go this way...

...this morn-ing, so ...

I just turned the corner, and there you were...

You sur-prised me.

Phew!

...

Aah!
BLUSH
は°
Huh?
...to worry what someone thinks of you.
Even if that someone is me.
What? Why?
I mean, I'm the one who asked you out...
!!!!
...
Asked me...?!
...
F-funny.
I have been avoiding you...
but only because I was scared *you* hated *me*.
...I'm sorry.
So he does know what it's like...
And here I thought you hated me.
You've been avoiding me like the plague and all.

...

Well, I'm not always great *conver-sation* for you...

...and I *did* ignore you the other day and all, so...

Ignore me? I never took it that way.

I was just happy you were talking to me at all.

Wow, that's cold!

Sorry...

Hey.

Isn't it kind of rude?

To ask that.

Being able to ...really made me happy.

And, I mean, you're honest...

...and your friends clearly mean a lot to you.

So I thought to myself...

...she sure is nice.

Put simply, Hamada-san,

I like you.

I'd like to ask you out, if you're interested.

...

Hup!

BA-THUMP

ドク…

GASP

If...

if you're sure I'm good enough for you...!

You'd never know it to look at you...

MAN, MY HEART WAS POUNDING IN MY CHEST! HA HA!

FOR REAL?

NICE!

Oh,
s-sure.

Crap. I've got to go give this key back.

I'll see you around, Hamada-san.

Oh!

DING

DONG

...

Whoa. Whoa!

ドッキ

BA-THUMP

BA-THUMP

Wha...what do I do now?

We're... we're... we're...

We're an item...!

Right? That's what this means?

WOBBLE

HAMADA-SAN?

*Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?
by Philip K. Dick

Do you want to walk home together today?

Y-
Y-
Y-

YES?!

Stick around for a bit after lit club lets out, all right?

Uhh,

I was wonder-ing...

Okay...

crap!

Phillip K. Dick
アンドロイドは電気羊の夢を見るか？
フィリップ・K・ディック

Phillip K. Dick

Whoaaa!

One thing led to another, and Caffeine-kun and Hamarin left Azuma-kun and Aizawa-san in the dust.

I've mounted a full recovery.

TIIING!

WOW!

But their first date is finally around the corner!

So all this time Azuma-kun and I have been taking baby steps, you two have gone out, like, four or five times total?

You're going out?! Huh?

W-wow... Congratulations.

C... congrats...

Aizawa-san, when Hamarin told her the news


THE ROAD HOME
So, what do you guys do in lit club, anyway? Do you have, like, practice and stuff?
They walked home toge-ther.
Yeah. I always end up grab-bing some-thing to eat at the convenience store on the way home.
Yeah?
Man! I'm hungry.
You know, ice cream, maybe a meat bun...
Good thing it's winter...!
This marks the end of another Valentine's Day for the gang.
Man, that's good.
They didn't melt...
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
ドキ
ドキ
ドキ
She couldn't bring herself to say they were Valentine's chocolates...
And so, she managed to deliver her chocolates to their destination unscathed.
Huh? Yeah, I do!
You want any?
Well, uh, I've got choco-late.

...Azuma-kun and Aizawa-san made plans to go on a date.

Just the two of us?

So, do you want to go out somewhere?

Last time on Our Precious Conversations (or, well, quite a bit earlier than that)...

But, being students, they had one last mountain to climb first...!

Azuma-kun tried his hardest!

He devoted himself to his studies!

*Modern Lit

*Math II

*Physics

Finals!

Those who are unfortunate enough to fail these tests are doomed to two weeks' remedial study.

ep. 29 Our Precious Date (Part 1) It All Starts Before the Big Day

*Beamer Toys

おもちゃの ビーマー

And in the end...

*Join the Third Meeting of the Board Game Workshop!

第3回 ボードゲーム ワークショップのお知らせ

開催日時 ○○に年7月5日
13:00 ～ 16:00
場所 ふれあい公民館
参加費無料 入退場自由!!

Meets on March 5th,
1:00-4:00, at
Fureai Kominkan
No Entry Fee
Come and Go as
you Please!!

ボードゲーム

*Board Games

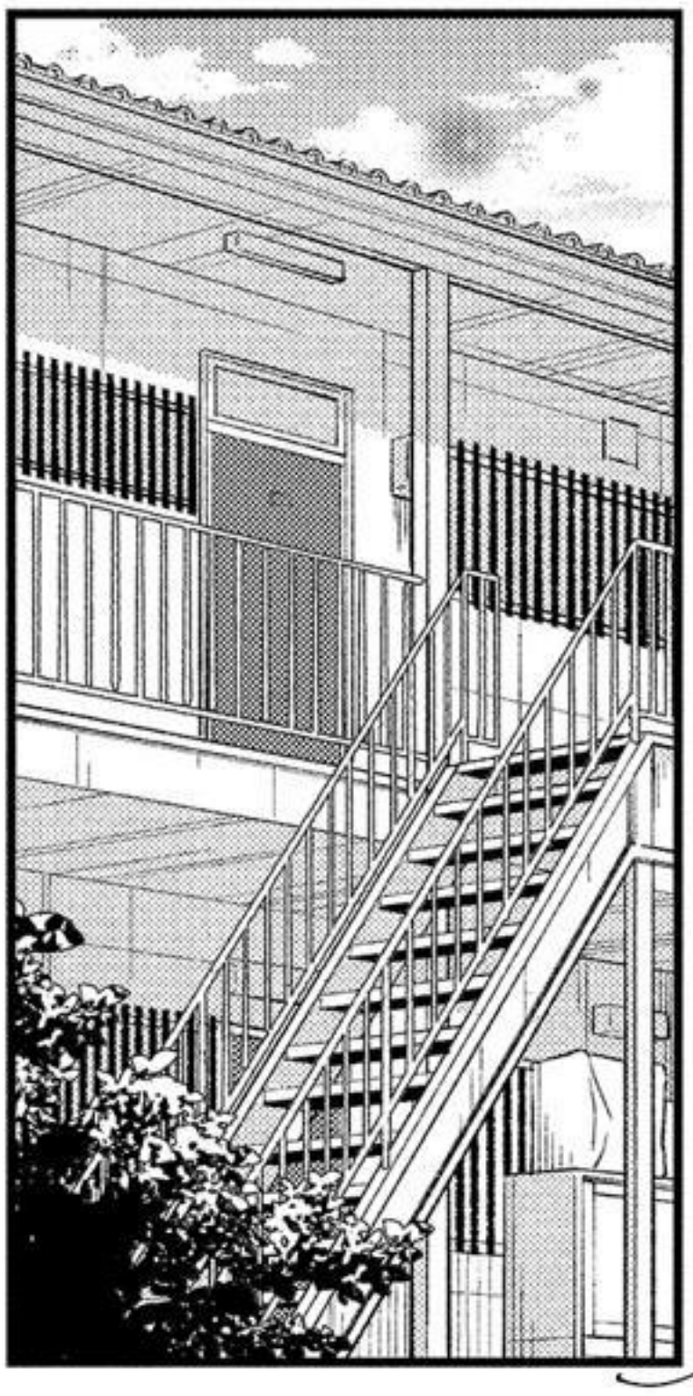
*New Releases!

新作入荷!!

MONOPOLY

...he escaped this dreaded fate.

英語 64
化学 49
数学Ⅱ 72
古文 56
I KNEW YOU COULD DO IT!
27th
LOOK AT YOU, AZUMA-KUN!
Thank you, Aizawa-san.
Ranked 156th in the School
I didn't fail a single one!
Amaz-ing!
?
FWIP
What would you say to this Sunday...
...at ten o'clock...
...in front of the Chuo Station?







...do I wear?

What on earth...!

FWOMP



I wore this, like, a hundred times over winter break...

...and this is cute, but it doesn't fit quite right...

ぽCHUCK い

ぽい CHUCK

わっ WAAH!

Yeesh.

Ugh! I can't make up my mind!!

And...and if at all humanly possible, I want him to think I'm cute!!

I mean, it's our first date! I've got to look good for it!

Just keep your shit off my side of the room, you spaz.

Slinging your clothes all over the place again, I see.

Ryuji ...

What a mess.

玉陵

Aizawa-san's little brother, Ryuji Aizawa (High school, year one)

Azuma again, huh...?

The Aizawa-san Zone

You terrify me. To my core.

How did you get to *be* this way?

You know you wuv your big sister...

Jeez... Who taught you that language, huh?

You little jerk.

HE'LL *NEVER* THINK I'M CUTE AT THIS RATE!

...

OH, WHAT DO I DO? OUR DATE IS TOMORROW!

You have terrible taste in women,

Azuma...

Gentlemen... seeing as the gang's all here, allow me to inform you:

It seems Shiro's got a date with Aizawa-chan tomorrow.

Wha...?! Keisuke!!

What's your problem, Shiro? I'm sure you're nervous, too. Let's talk strategy.

SNIFF-

Let *us* share in your happiness, man!

Y-YOU ARE DISRESPECTING AIZAWA-SAN!

*Constructing Scenarios by Kogo Noda

*Tomihiko Morimi

*Yasutaka Tsutsui

*Literary Phrases

*How to Write Stories

A date, huh? Lucky you. I wish *I* had a date tomorrow.

Take a girl to an amusement park or something ...

Especially a girl like Aizawa-san!

HA HA HA!

Hah! O, ye of little faith...

Suzu's *dead sure* you're going to pick someplace stupid.

Huh?! Suzu-sempai's here?!

So, you already decide where you're taking her?

BOOM BOOM BOOM

...and gotten advice on what I can rule out!

I've done my research on plans that fit the bill...

As I've told you once before, from a woman's perspective, there are three characteristics of a perfect date! One: good food. Two: a trendy date spot. Three: romance...so long as it's not laid on *too* thick.

BOOM BOOM

...but I think what *really* matters is what *progress* you make.

Well, I mean, it *does* matter where you go...

Azuma's friend, Nakagawa-kun

No place too hot... too cold...walking's out...and we need something to do!!

I'M SURE I CAN THINK OF SOME-THING! *ANYTHING!*

DO WOMEN LEAVE US NO CHOICE BUT TO STEP ON LANDMINES OF OUR OWN ACCORD?!

You know, man, I've been thinking... maybe your *first* mistake is asking your *aunts* for advice...

And I want to demonstrate for her that I'm a capable man.

Where I want things to go? Well, *obviously*, I'd like for us to deepen our friendship!

Maybe so...

Yeah. You know, like, where you want things to go between you two.

Progress?

...BUT YOU AT *LEAST* WANT TO HOLD HER *HAND*, RIGHT?

WHAT ARE YOU, STUPID?!

And if that leads to *kissing*, so much the—

WH-

YEP, YEP.

A MUST-DO, INDEED.

YEAH, THAT'S A MUST!

Easy, now, Shiro.

...holding hands is as easy as it gets.

Even *if* kissing's a bit much to ask...

The Height of Turmoil...

O-ON YOUR *FIRST DATE*?! THAT'S UNTHINKABLE!!

Oh? Is it?

It's so cooold!

You take her to a beachside park, and eventually you're gonna hear her say...

...right?

That's when you gently take her hand in yours...

...and slowly pull it into your pocket.

They said it was **way past** lame!

All the girls in middle school thought you were a creep, remember?!

Why on earth would you try again? Don't you ever learn?!

Spare me...!

Then you show her your good side... like this!

CHU♡

YOU KNOW FULL WELL THAT'S NEVER WORKED FOR YOU!

Girls love those kinds of places, right?

A beach-side park, eh...?

HMM...

O...okay, well, hand-holding or no...

he might be onto something with the beach idea.

AND YOU CAN GET HER ALONE THERE.

THAT'S YOUR GAME, HUH?!

All this talk of holding hands and kissing...!

WAH HA HA!

I've had enough! You will *not* use my date to *amuse* yourselves!

FWAP

I KNEW HE'D COME AROUND!

DON'T YOU KNOW THERE'S A BETTER WAY?

It's said women love with their ears. You just sweep her into your arms, then work your way up...

あ Ah

はha

はha

わ Wah

はha

はha

はha

God ...

...this is bad.

I'm getting nervous.

I just hope...

Meanwhile, as Azuma-kun and his friends made merry...

Ah ha ha ha

...that tomorrow...

...I can make her happy.

Boo

...Aizawa-san...

Bakery

*Crusts for Sale Every Saturday

毎週土曜パンの耳

How is it that I have plenty of outfits, but nothing to wear...?

The one-piece...? No! I'd better go with that skirt...

Truly, woman's greatest mystery.

...was still consumed by anxiety over what to wear.

Running Errands Before Dinner

I want him to see me at my absolute best.

...he finally asked me out, and all.

I mean ...

Thank you! Come again!

Makita Bakery

I've done quite well, if I say so myself!

Pursuing someone who's shown no interest in you is the height of folly for a woman.

You shouldn't do that, either.

Looking back on it, Ever since it's been a the day journey! I asked him out, and he blew up at me...

I wonder...

What does
Azuma-kun...

...think of
me now?

If I were to approach Azuma-kun today...

...and tell him how I feel...

Does he think of me as a friend?

Or...does he see me for the woman I am, if only a little?

...I wonder what he'd say?

Well! If it isn't the Class 4 girls!

HEYA! WHAT-CHA UP TO?

Oh, just... on my way back from the bakery.

HUH?

HEY! AIZAWA-CHAN!

I picked up some crusts.

I'm going to re-bake them for snacks.

OH! YOU'RE MAKING RUSKS, HUH? THOSE ARE GOOD!

GIMME ONE!!

How dare you?!

HEY!!

HERE! SAY HELLO!

Hmm?

薬局

Oh! Hang on a sec.

KEISUKE! PUT HIM ON.

Hmm?

Hello? This is Aizawa speaking...

Keisuke, why on earth should—

Hmm?!

A-Aizawa-san?!

Huh? What are you doing there, Aizawa-san?

Hey! Save some for the rest of us!!

Azuma-kun?!

I'd rather not bother, myself...

They're trying to rope me into this **bowling** nonsense.

I see.

Thank you, Hachiga-saki-san...

Oh, uh, I j-just happened to run into the girls, so...

Azuma-kun! And we're talking on the phone...!

It's—

It's—

...

Uhh...

Huh?!

You're not going bowling, are you, Aizawa-san?

N-nope! Nope! I'm not!!

I see. Well, I'll see you later, then.

...I'm looking forward...

...to tomorrow.

たいやき

白あん チョコ あんこ チーズ 抹茶

Oh!

Are you off the phone?

We can't get that guy to budge...

Oh, uh...I'm not sure.

Sorry I put you on the spot!

Well? *Now* is Azuma in the mood to go bowling?

You're not? Dammit!

And after I got you two on the phone, too!

BA-DUM

BA-DUM

Tomorrow...

"I'm looking forward..."

"...to tomorrow."

...I want
to tell...

...Azuma-kun...

...how I
feel again.

へいわ台中央駅
HEIWADAI-CHUO STATION

東洋ビル

Uhh, g...

Good morning,

CHATTER

Aizawa-san.

CHATTER

Hey! Azuma-kun!

Good morning!

CHATTER

...

STAMMER

SPUTTER

YEAH !

READY TO GO?

R-

His mind is running wild with anxiety over today's plans...

All I need to do now is **follow** it.

It's...it's fine. I've been over the plan a hundred times.

...and hers with worry over her outfit.

It's fine! I got my hair all nice and cute today...and this was the best outfit I had!

I've got to make sure...

...this date goes well...

...and demonstrate my worth as a man...!

...and ask him out...!

...which we'll see in Chapter 30: Our Precious Date (Part 2): When You Get Down to it, Dating's a Performance Art!

Azuma-kun and Aizawa-san's hearts are racing as they get ready for their big date...


How can you be such a pig?!
Hey! You little punk! You bit into all of these!
TAIYA

BROTHER AND SISTER

And something's weighing on my mind. To put it bluntly... **my sister's scaring me.**

CLACK

I'm Ryuji Aizawa. I'm in my first year of high school.

I'm home.

Huh? No one's home ...

Heh heh heh ...

Heh heh heh ...

We got anything to eat, Grandma?

Heh heh heh ...

Heh heh heh ...

Azuma-kun's chopstick wrapper...

Azuma-kun threw out this chopstick wrapper... and I couldn't help but pick it up!

Ryuji and Aizawa-san's room

Whatever. The sooner I graduate and get out of here, the better.

Are all girls like this when no one's looking?

Oh, Ryuji...! Will you stop staring daggers at me?

Leave your big sister be!

Shut up.

Chopsticks

Last Time on Our Precious Conversations...

date [deyt]
noun
1. the day of the month
2. when two lovers meet at a prearranged time and spend the day together.

Azuma-kun and Aizawa-san find themselves on their first date at long last.

I've got to demonstrate my worth as a man...!

I've got to ask him out...!

They're both at max voltage and raring to go!

...the more you try to force it, the worse it tends to go.

But the funny thing about love is...

ep. 30

Our Precious Date (Part 2)
When You Get Down to it, Dating's a Performance Art!

CHATTER #7

CHATTER #7

CHATTER #7

CHATTER #7

Oh!

Azuma-kun!

S-so, what's on the agenda for today?

CHATTER #7

Oh, uhh...

CHATTER #7

Can I even **handle** dating a girl this cute...?!

Nope! Not at all.

She's... she's so cute!

M-morning, Aizawa-san.

Sorry. Been waiting long?

CLATTER...

ぎしっ...

CHATTER #07

Well, I've given it some good, hard thought...

...and I was wondering if you'd like to see a movie or something.

!!!!

A MOVIE?! OH, THAT'S A GREAT IDEA!

Good. Why don't we decide what to see after we get there?

SURE!

HONK HONK

HONK

CHATTER #07

I knew movies were the right choice here!

The amuse-ment park? No!

The zoo? No!

They'd make for too much waiting around for a first date! There's too much risk of the conversation fizzling out!

*Well, let's hope **that** sets the tone!*

RUMBLE

But it'll be so **dark** in there. What if our hands touch...?

BA-DUM ドキ

ドキ BA-DUM

I haven't been to the movies since the last time we went, Azuma-kun!

If you delegate the choice of film to your partner, you can't possibly go wrong! And you'd be surprised how well the no-frills approach compares to putting on airs for a woman!

You might think movie dates are nothing out of the ordinary, but if you ask me, they're **extra**ordinary!

She probably thinks I can't come up with any ideas of my **own**!

B-but she only invited me along because she happened to have some free tickets! I did what I could not to think to myself, "here I am at the movies with a girl!"

ドッ THUMP

ドッ THUMP

...

Come to think of it, we **have** been to the movies before!

See volume two

Today's the day!

Azuma-kun's so thoughtful.

I'm so happy!

I love him...!

BA-DUM ドキ

BA-DUM ドキ

BA-DUM ドキ

BA-DUM ドキ

HEH

Maybe he didn't notice all the effort I put into my **look** today...

But I want this to be...

...a date to remember.

So...

...you better not blow it today, Nozomi!

HONK

CINEMA

シネマ

ドキ

BA-DUM

ドキ

BA-DUM

CHATTER

#17

S-so, what do you think?

CHATTER

#17

I read up a little on what's supposed to be good right now...

...but what do you want to see, Aizawa-san?

Me ...?

...

恐怖

HORROR!

蝉人形の館

地獄の釜が今開く

*Hell will soon be unleashed...

*The House of Chitin

FWIP

I-I want to see what **you** want to see, Azuma-kun!

KINGSSON

HUH? ME?!

TICKETS

I'm so nervous! This is just like when you meet someone for the first time and they ask what kind of music you like...!

Wh-what are you **supposed** to watch in these situations, anyway?

She **is** a girl. Maybe a romance or some-thing?

Now what do I do? I'd planned to leave that up to **her**...!

K!! K!! THUMP THUMP

じ STAAARE

I know! There **was** that action movie that scored a five out of—

!!

…

…

…

All…

…all of the seats are reserved... except for the couples' seating!!

CHATTER

感動をー！

*...get ready for a tearjerker...

*This winter...

この冬に…

This afternoon's screening of Russell the Raccoon will begin momentarily.

We ask that all guests with tickets for Russell the Raccoon proceed to Theater 9...

CHATTER

ザワ

ザワ

I haven't had much of an appetite the past couple days, anyway!

Because I'm so nervous...

GRRWL

Come to think of it, are you sure you don't want any snacks, Aizawa-san?

We've got a little time before the movie starts.

I'm fine! I wouldn't want to spoil my lunch.

Good going. Now she thinks you're into **cutesy** movies.

He's into the **cutesy** stuff, huh?

It's not like that! Everything that's getting decent reviews right now is sold out. I had to pick something!

I'm so embarrassed!

What if he hears...?!

RMMBL

Huh? Wh- why now?!

GRRGSH

I mean it! I haven't eaten since yesterday!

GRWWWL

"There's your answer.

BLBLBL

HMM?

FWPSHH

DON'T MIND IF I DO!

Oh, yeah! I **did** bring some gum. Would you like any?

Just chew super loud so he doesn't hear your stomach growling...

...and then once the movie starts, it'll drown you out!

MMF

I knew I could count on you, Azuma-kun!

I love you...!

And so, Aizawa-san's stomach growled...

...throughout the entire movie.

Someone's stomach is growling like **crazy...**

OH, RUSSELL, OLD PAL OF MINE!

I'm begging you, movie... Hurry up!

BLBLBLBLBL

GRRGHGHGH

GRWWWL

ぐぉぉぉ

はー PHEW!

I'm tired...

ぐったり SLUMP

Luckily, we managed to find another place...

And then, once I was pretty sure I **had** found it, it turned out to be full!

H-huh? What?

After the movie ended...

...I couldn't find the restaurant I'd been **planning** on taking her to.

BLBLBLBLBL

GRR GHGHGH

GRWWWL

...

Wait. What was that movie even **about**, again...?

Uhh, let's see... do we talk about the movie over tea...?

...but this hasn't exactly gone according to plan.

GASP

はっ

Oh, right! I should **talk** to her!

HERE'S YOUR SPECIAL LOVERS' DRINK!

SORRY FOR THE WAIT!

PARDON ?

SPECIAL ...?

Lovers...?

YEP! IT'S FOR COUPLES ONLY! ♡

GO ON, YOU TWO! SHARE IT! ♡

PFFFT!

BA-DUM

BA-DUM

Couples ...!

HEE HEE...

Whoopsie!

COUPLES ...?!

I—I DIDN'T ORDER THAT!!

I DIDN'T !!

Sorry for the mix-up...!

Oh!

She's laughing...

AH HA HA HA HA!

OH, AZUMA-KUN!

YOU CAN'T BE **TOO** SURPRISED...!

No kidding?

You sure **seemed** like you knew your way around. I figured you were a regular!

You and Keisuke-kun or something.

I'm not used to these places to begin with!

Well, what do you want from me?

I wouldn't come here with another **guy**.

I looked this place up specifically for today.

Th...

Thank you...

BLUUUSH

か

Well,

why don't we get something to eat?

I've really worked up an appetite...

Mm~

...being so nervous!

You use that wrapper to pick it up...

How am I supposed to eat this thing?

Huh?

Wait.

Leave it to me.

Go for it, Azuma-kun!

*Russell the Raccoon

What's going on there?

Hey, look!

Some kind of event, I guess.

Heh heh heh. I was worried for a moment...

...but this couldn't be going better!

wow!

We managed to make our way to the park after all.

Azu-ma-kun,

look!

Of course,

Aizawa-san herself had plenty to do with that...

I dare say this was a runaway success!

HA HA HA

His confidence has returned...

The pond's full of swans!

Oh!

How cute!

Oh! There's little baby swans out here, too!

...

I only hope...

COME ON, AZUMA-KUN, TAKE A LOOK!

...she's having as much fun as I am.

WHO EVER KNEW SWANS COULD BE SO CUTE?

uh-
huh.

BA-DUM
ドキ
BA-DUM
ドキ
BA-DUM
ドキ
?
...
Aah!
I forgot!
I've been having too much fun...
Right! I have to tell him how I feel!
Azu-ma-kun...
...
?
You know, if I'm going to do it...
...I think...
...the atmosphere might be right now.

BA-DUM ドゥ キ

BA-DUM ドゥ キ

...for inviting me out today.

Umm,

I just want to say thanks ...

ドゥ BA-DUM キ

ドゥ キ BA-DUM

You're welcome.

I...

Listen,

Ha ha ha!

What's wrong, Aizawa-san?

Aaugh! It's no good. I can't say it!

?!

JOLT

PWAP

Azuma-kun,

when I told you I had feelings for you...

...HUH?

...I never dreamed...

I mean, I **do** seem to remember you so cruelly dismissing such confessions...

...as "underhanded!"

WAIT!

WAIT, WAIT. WAIT,

...we'd ever be this close.

All I'm saying is...

...I'm glad I had the courage to tell you how I felt.

Wh-what's going on?

Why are you bringing this up **now**?

Besides, what do you mean, "confession?"

WHY DON'T WE GO CHECK—

OOH! LOOK, AZUMA-KUN! SOMETHING'S GOING ON OVER THERE!

Listen. When you said you liked me...

...I thought for sure...

...that you were joking.

...What do you think now?

I think, it sure would be nice...

...if you had meant it.

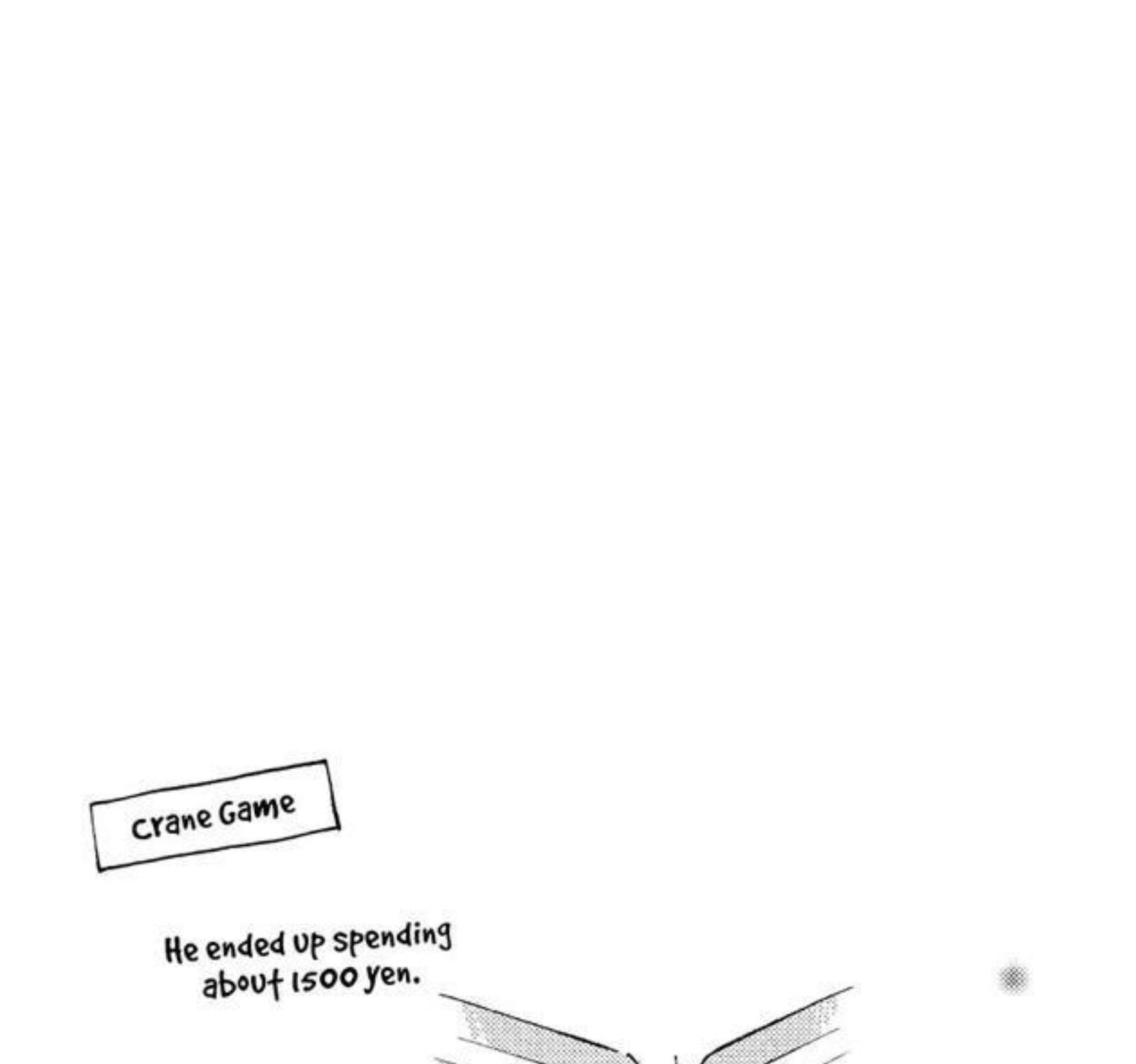
...Huh?

And so, their date was a runaway success.

But it's not over yet.

Huhhh?!

Crane Game


He ended up spending about 1500 yen.
That's odd. Something must be wrong with this machine...
It'd have been cheaper to buy the thing...
He'll never admit that he's the problem.

Every time he catches himself thinking something untoward, he starts moving super awkwardly.

ON THE DATE

Look, look!

Huh?!

GASP

Azuma-kun?

?

It's... it's nothing.

?

キリリ CREAK

CRACK

*Good Fortune

No, no, no, no! I could never!

Should we hold hands ...?

Look!

I think,
it sure would
be nice if
you **had**
meant it.

FLAP...

19



ep. 31 Our Precious Date (Part 3) You Gotta Stick the Landing!

TEE HEE

TEE HEE

Hee hee hee hee! ♡

Huh? Was I smiling?

What are *you* smiling about, Nozomin?

HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!

So, how are things going with **you** two, Hamarin?

Not good with these things

...but I can guarantee you'll change the subject to **me.**

I want to ask what happened...

This again...! You're thinking about that **date** you went on, aren't you?!

Look! Swans!!

BA-THRUMP

Things kinda fizzled out after those two showed up, but...

Oh, Azuma-kun... you hope I meant it, huh?

It's happening, Nozomi! It's finally happening!!

わくわく HOP

BA-DUM BA-DUM

わくわく HOP

What was that about? What was **that** about?!

Oh!! What do I do the next time we see each other...?!

2-4

Eeek!

I can't wait to see him again!

...has a girlfriend now.

So, my big brother...

Maybe I don't look the type, but I've got a bit of a complex about my brother, okay? I'm just a little shocked!

Hey, now. I'm surprised you don't **care**.

Oh yeah?

MEN.

SUCH SIMPLE CREATURES.

...but she's in college, she's cute, and worst of all...

...she's stacked.

WHY DOESN'T SHE EVER SEEM TO CARE WHAT'S GOING ON IN **OUR** LIVES, ANYWAY?

CHATTER ざわ

What, **now?** Hasn't he had girlfriends before?

Apparently, he fell for her at first sight...

ざわ CHATTER

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

Know this! All those girls who put on airs like they're cool with everything? They're rotten to the core!

That goes for those girls who're always like, "oh, I never have trouble finding a boyfriend," too!

And get *this!* We went to the same *middle* school together!

She makes like she's all laid-back, but she used to smack my cheeks with a ruler! That little weasel.

BOOM

You see?!!

You see? You see?!

SURE, BUT... SHE'S STACKED, RIGHT? IT'S OUT OF YOUR HANDS.

He's got a girlfriend, huh...?

I'm not about to roll over and let you two live in your own little world!

See if *I* care! Go ahead and date him! I'll crush you one day!

You're just jealous...

He's...

What's the big deal?

Your brother's finally leaving the nest. You should be happy for him!

Hmm?

What's going on here?

Luckily, someone showed up in the nick of time, but...

...

But why did I have to go and **say** that?

I might as well have said I **love** her!

BA-BUMP

BA-BUMP

Yesterday sure was fun.

Aizawa-san seemed to enjoy herself, too.

I think, it sure would be nice if you **had** meant it.

...What's wrong, Azuma?

O-OHH...

You aren't looking too lively.

Hey, good point!

You **always** jump on board for these things.

I figured you'd be all, "there's more to a woman than her breasts," or something!

Don't you put words in his mouth!

It's, uhh,

nothing.

Oh, how I wish I had your problems!

So carefree...

JUST GOES TO SHOW! THE LESS YOU HAVE TO DEAL WITH ROMANCE **YOURSELF**, THE MORE YOU FIXATE ON EVERYONE ELSE'S LOVE LIVES...

HUH?

What do I do...

...next time I see her?

*You **know** she's going to bring it up again.*

I've got to be ready for that...

Tamaki...

Azuma-kun!

Tamaki... Your stately dignity's only grown in our time apart, I see.

To tell you the truth, I hate vegetables so much, I could die, but...all in a day's work for a prince, I suppose.

Well! What brings **you** all the way out here?

The School Backyard

Ohh, uhh, one of my fans harvested some veggies right over there, and she just **had** to give me some...

...we went out on a date yesterday.

As a matter of fact...

I'm surprised Aizawa-san's not with you today!

What are you up to, Azuma-kun?

Well, I can't exactly turn tail and **run**, can I? I figured I **had** to tell her yes.

...

One little slip of the tongue, and I got stuck with cleanup duty!

Women...

N-no, uhh...

...I slipped up and said something kind of...strange...at the end.

CONGRATULATIONS, AZUMA-KUN!

I mean, it went fine and all, but...

HUH?! HEY, GOOD FOR YOU!

I don't know what came over me!

I can't see Aizawa-san **now**...

I dunno, I think you're cute together.

Remember when my ex and I were having problems, and I came to you? That was when I thought to myself...

...these two have something in common.

Ever since then, I've been hoping things work out...

...for you guys.

For all I know, Aizawa-san didn't think anything of it...

I don't know. Maybe this isn't as big a deal as I think.

You're a good guy,

Tamaki...

BA-DUM

!

That's it!

キキ

I'll just act...

...like nothing ever happened—

...

Azuma-kun didn't show up to lunch today...

BA-DUM

BA-DUM

What—

what good is **hiding** going to do?

DING

It's no use.

DONG

Some-thing's got to give...

消火器

図書室

READING ROOM

Dang. Someone checked it out already.

Let's see...

"Ko..."

"Ko..."

"S-U-R-E"

ピ TAP

ピ TAP

TAP ピ

TAP ピ

"M-E-E-T-Y-O-U-A-T-T-H-E-U-S-U-A-L-P-L-A-C-E"

ピ TAP

ピ TAP

高橋くん
*Takahashi-kun

When does the lit club let out? It looks like I'm gonna be done early today. You wanna walk home together?

This'll have to do today.

The Invincible by Stanislaw Lem, huh...?

砂漠の惑星

BA-DING!

Hey there, club president.

...

Duh heh!

Well, not my business, I guess...

Hmm ...

Oh!

H...he didn't catch me texting, did he?

N-N-Nozomin's worried about you! She says she hasn't seen you for two days now!

THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP

BA-DUM

DD

Y-YEAH, I'VE BEEN... PRETTY BUSY...

FLAP

A-AZUMA ?!

わた

FLAP

わた

?

You're here to check some-thing out, too, huh?

SHFF

This reminds me, Azuma...

SHFF

The #1 Excuse of Men

Ato wa No to Nare, Yamato Nadeshiko by Yusuke Miyauchi

This is yours, isn't it?

Here.

I've been meaning to give it back.

You ...?!

My...

...long-lost novel...?!

Wh-wh-why does **she** have it?!

Remember the other day...

...when I came over to your place?

You dropped this right outside the club room.

I thought it was one of the members' work, so I couldn't help but read it...

Sorry! I didn't mean to, really, but...

THAT WAS WHEN I PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER.

...whenever I see writing, my eyes can't help but take it in...

Y-YOU PEEKED ?!

WITHOUT ASKING?!

Huh?

What's this...?

Welp! It's back with its rightful owner.

Wait ...!

...

Nngh...

現代国家と日

I liked it.

See you.

I didn't even know you were **writing** a book, Azuma!

Maybe you never told me 'cause you didn't want me to know...

...but if you end up writing any more, let me read it, okay?

I always make believe I'm writing...

...but it ends up fizzling out halfway through.

All I ever do is play make-believe.

So I couldn't very well...

...**show** anyone my writing...

I've never finished anything I've started.

I mean, I'm not a writer, myself...

...but when I look at my sempai, and the kids in the club, I think to myself...

...it seems like, when writers come across something that really speaks to them...

...they ask themselves, "how would I have written that?"

I've tried writing, too, but...

...somehow, I don't think that's the same thing.

Like, when I read a really good story, for example...

...I just **have** to tell someone else about it.

Azuma...

...have you ever really been **moved** by something?

And if you ever **do** finish any-thing...

...I'd like to read it, if you don't mind.

If you ever catch yourself thinking, "I wish I could write this way..."

...I think that's proof you've got something to share with the world, Azuma-kun.

...the third story was the best.

If you ask me...

...One more thing!

I feel like it gave me a bit of insight...

...into how you think about people.

If you ask me, the third story was the best.

Knowing someone else has read your work...

...sure hits you hard.

はー PHEW...

...

THMP

*Ultramarine

落葉

If memory serves...

...that's this one.

The one I wrote...

...about Aizawa-san.

...since that day.

I haven't seen Azuma-kun at all...

Stay strong, young Nozomi...

It seemed like things were going so good the other day, too!

He doesn't come to see me at lunchtime... and he always takes off as soon as class lets out.

DIIING

Maybe I dreamed that whole thing up...?

A-AZUMA-KUN?!

Good! You're still here.

I was up on the second floor. I saw you out the window.

They get mad at the drop of a hat,

they're perfectly happy flying in the face of reason,

and they'll just foist their emotions on you as if they're owed.

He came to see me...

Listen, I've never been...

...too wild about women.

All those things that used to **annoy** me about women...

How do I put it?

But ever since I met you...

Wh-what's this all about?

Is this a roundabout way of... venting about me?

...fascinate me instead.

...I'm not getting through to you, huh?

VSHH...

Well,

uhh...

I guess what I mean is...

...Aizawa-san, I...

...like you.

To be continued in volume seven!

AFTERWORD

Thank you so much for reading volume six of *our Precious conversations.*

Sometimes I think to myself, "you know what Azuma-kun needs? A girl who'll stay by his side as he pursues his dream of being a novelist and never let poverty get her down." I think Aizawa-san's the embodiment of that ideal...or maybe I'm being delusional.

She seems like she'd always have a smile on her face, even if she couldn't afford anything but flour.

COUGH!

Well, I look forward to seeing you in volume seven! Thank you so much!

Robiko

Our Precious Conversations 6

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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OUR Precious CONVERSATIONS 7

ROBICO

Our Precious Conversations

7

Presented by Robiko

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character



Shiro Azuma

This is the boy Aizawa-san bared her heart to. As time went on, they grew closer...and he finally told her he has feelings for her, too!



Nozomi Aizawa

A second-year high school student. After pining for Azuma-kun for ages, she finally worked up the courage to tell him she has feelings for him, but...



Suzu Ichinomiya

The fourth of Azuma-kun's aunts. She had an unrequited thing for one of her teachers.



Marin Hamada

Aizawa-san's close friend and the president of the lit club. Her nickname is Hamarin. She and Caffeine are an item now!



Caffeine

Azuma-kun's laid-back, kindhearted classmate who can run with just about any crowd.

...And the Rest of the Gang



Kazuomi Tamaki



Kudo-san | Nanashima-san | Hachigasaki-san | Nakagawa | Keisuke





story

Nozomi Aizawa had been pining in secret for her schoolmate, Azuma-kun, for quite some time...but she finally worked up the courage to tell him how she feels! But she just can't seem to catch a break now. He spurned her advances as "wrong," saw her panties, and even nitpicked the hand-made gifts she'd put so much work into! Undaunted, she continued to converse with Azuma-kun daily, and over time, they grew closer, and now Aizawa-san's on Azuma-kun's mind, too. In fact, their first date's coming up, but...


We like to quit while we're ahead.
Why is it that boys never *apologize* for anything?

ep. 32 War of the Worlds


Aizawa-san serving up a straight look.

Aizawa-san...

...I like you.

Last time on Our Precious Conversations ...

Azuma-kun finally came out and said it.

ドドド

HURRAY
HURRAY
わっせ
わっせ

ドドド

BOOOOOM

BOOOM

...

H...
HUHHH?!

Wh-why?
Why **now**?!

Huh? Huh?!
Did he really
just say that?!

...

...didn't think it would be very nice to leave it at that.

...The other day, when we went out on that date...

...things ended on a bit of a... vague note, so...

Please...

...accept my feelings.

...Aizawa-san...

Aizawa-san!

That's not very nice.

Even if we are from different planets...

...words bridge that gap.

Uhh...

U-
uhh,
umm
...

umm
...

But I want you to give me some time before you tell me how you feel.

I–

I–

...who would **deserve** to ask you out.

I'm not yet the sort of man ...

...Huh?

Can I ask you to wait until then?

Once I'm ready, I'll tell you again how I feel.

Not until I've finished ...

...at least one story.

U-uhh,

one month... N-no. Maybe two weeks?

And so, Azuma-kun pulled that old standby of the manga artist: the not-quite-confession!

Be specific.

...AND HOW LONG IS **THAT** GOING TO TAKE?

BA-DUM

I really like you.

I really like you.

I really like you.

Azuma-kun...!

GASP

I want to be sure I've put the man I used to be in the past...

...because I really like you, Aizawa-san.

I really like you...!! ♡

OKAY... ♡

2-4

I will be...

...reborn.

His Writer's Notes

Hey, Azuma.

She said she liked ...

...my writing!

CHATTER

I am enough of a man to impress the club president, at least!

Azuma-kun got so carried away writing yesterday, by the time he noticed it, he'd stayed up all night.

Morning!

CHATTER

He's the type of writer to swell with pride at the slightest hint of affirmation...

CHATTER

Secret Art! New Stationary...!!

It's amazing what a little upgrade to your equipment can do for your productivity...!

Hey, Shiro.

CHATTER

Huh? **That's** unusual.

You're writing at school now, huh?

DWOOSH

Hey.

...but also the type for whom criticism carries ten times the weight of praise.

What ...?

You know, you ought to try writing something **good** for a change.

Something even I can read!

Move.

...

You're in the way. Beat it.

Wh... what was **that** about?

ヒソ

PSST

ヒソ

Who knows ...?

ズン

STOMP

ズン

ズン

STOMP

STOMP

Hey.

Naka-gawa...

Morning.

You know how everyone's into bubble tea lately? Well, they all went to go try it out yesterday, and I tagged along.

And then...

They're at war.

...

ザワ CHATTER

Wha... what's going on?

Are they fighting?

I got a bad feeling about this...

YAYYY!!!

YAY,

BUBBLE TEA'S THE BEST!

HEY! NANASHIMA, DON'T BOGART ALL THE BOBA BUNS!

Ha ha ha

Greedy!!

Well, not bad, I guess, but...is it really that good?

wow, they are hyper...

BOBA MILK TEA!

SOOO GOOD!

BOBA CREAM SODA!

SOOO GOOD!

Oh, man... Bad call.

Careful! You'll get fat.

Ha ha ha! You girls sure can eat, huh?

PHEW!

OKAY! SELFIE TIME!

That was close...

YAY!

She's right! I mean, even if we **were** fat, you don't just **say** it!

There are some things you just don't say. Even by accident.

Easy there, Naka-gawa.

GET IN HERE, GIRLS!

THIS IS GOING UP ON THE INTER-NET!

サイコー THE BEST!

ピロポカ BOBAS...

R-right...

You know what girls like to hear? "You sure can eat, huh? That's why I love you!"

Pardon me...

Then, before I knew it...

...they were fighting.

ガタガタ SHUDDER SHUDDER

Huh...? What's **this**?

Our eyes are half closed!

3 Likes

You're the only one who looks cute...!

わっ

WAH!

Hey.

I couldn't do anything...

You'd never believe the vibe on the way home... It was hell!

It really is awful.

C-CAFFEINE !!

That's not happening. You can't get through to those girls.

I haven't gotten scratched that bad since our cat went into labor...

Caffeine! You're on.

Go buy some snacks or something and play the mediator.

YOU GOT IT.

Who cares how your photos turn out?!

I swear! Women fight over the most trifling things.

SOB...

Those girls are **such** a pain...even when they're in a **good** mood.

Something's gotta give. This place is a war zone!

さいわ…
PSST...

Wh... what now?

ざわ…
PSST...

Huh...

So you're all hiding out here, huh?

They're not exactly gonna welcome you with open arms if you try to pull rank.

Well, girls **do** tend to favor **lateral** communication, I suppose.

I see... So **that's** the issue.

Aizawa-saaan! ♡

Crowded house...

Sorry to drop in!

MMF

MMF

Yeah.

For three days now!

Look at you, fretting over **other** girls in front of me! ♡

Oh, Azuma-kun!

I **need** to **write**!

Well, there's got to be **something** we can do!

Aizawa-san's already convinced she's got him in the bag...

たんぽぽ娘

The Dandelion Girl Robert F. Young

WHAT A BOTHER.

SO WE NEED TO LISTEN, HUH ...?

NO KIDDING!

Guys... are you **sure** you want to sort this out?

WHAT A PAIN ...

What do you mean?

Okay, then. Why don't you try hearing each of them out on their own terms?

Girls usually need to talk through their feelings to get over them.

Well, it's been three days, right? So they've probably calmed down a **little** bit.

Whatever the case...

...this situation may not be conducive to writing.

LET'S GO, KEISUKE!!

Oh! You're not flying solo, huh?

Go for it!

VERY WELL!

DEEP DOWN, I COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT THIS STUPID FIGHT OF THEIRS, BUT I'LL STEP UP TO THE PLATE!

WITH **ME** ON THE CASE, THIS LITTLE CATFIGHT MIGHT AS WELL BE THE MEWLING OF KITTENS!

That's just how it goes when you butt in on fights between girls!

Just don't forget... You slip up once, and there'll be casualties.

Case 1:

A-ko's Testi-mony

Huh?

You want me to patch things up with those two?

No way! I already pretty much apologized, for starters.

They never would have let me hear the end of it otherwise!

Well, they pissed me off, all right?

It was just a joke! But then they ganged up on me like they always do.

They went to middle school together, you know!

They **always** find some way to make these things two against one!

I'm never apologizing.

Ever!!

PERHAPS SO, BUT YOU **WERE** THE ONE WHO **STARTED** THIS WHOLE THING.

CAN'T YOU SEE YOU'RE MAKING TROUBLE FOR EVERYBODY ELSE? WHY DON'T YOU SHAPE UP AND EXTEND THE OLIVE BRANCH?!

Azuma. Dude. Your tone.

Huh?

Case 2:

B-ko's Testi-mony

She certainly is stubborn.

Failure

You want me to make up with Hach-san?

TRICK

Oh, well. One down, two to go.

She thinks she can get away with anything as long as she's just joking!

Ha ha ha! Sorry, sorry.

No way! You **know** she doesn't think **she** did anything wrong!

She's always like this!

MAD DOG ON THE LOOSE!

YOU GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?!

...WHO THE HELL ASKED YOU?

RUMBLE

RETREAT! RETREAT!!

...Huh?

Perhaps, but that's no call to **gang up** on her.

I'm getting the sneaking suspicion we made things worse.

Well, **that** certainly ended up a bit more... dangerous than it needed to be.

"Ganging up," huh?

ZSHH

You didn't hear that from Hachigasaki, did you?

We never **meant** to gang up on her, really.

That's just how Nanashima is sometimes.

We go way back. These things tend to happen, I guess.

So that's how she saw it, huh...?

Kudo!

Case 3: C-ko's Testi-mony

Well, I was pretty pissed **at the time,** but...not really.

I mean, she deleted it right away, for one thing.

Me?

You're not angry, Kudo?

*...I can't tell him I was only upset 'cause I didn't want **him** to see it...!*

Look, are you sure about this?

Don't you think it's time to step in?

why me?

I'VE GOT TO SAY, THOUGH, THAT PHOTO WAS A MASTERPIECE!

Yeah, I dunno. I've been thinking it's about time to put a stop to this, too...

Oh, with Nanashima and Hachigasaki?

ARE YOU SURE YOU GUYS ARE FRIENDS?

YOU HAVEN'T HAD A SINGLE NICE THING TO SAY ABOUT THEM...

...BUT IT'S TOUGH. HACH-SAN'S HARD-HEADED AND RUDE...AND NANASHIMA'S AS SHORT AS HER TEMPER. LIKE A MAD DOG.

...I see.

Kudo...

...they're not exactly the most **complex** people in the world.

Still...

'Course we're friends! Why do you think I feel comfortable **saying** that?

Azuma's smiling at me...!!

Oh...

God.

GRIN

GRIN

GRIN

BA-DUM

BA-DUM

BA-DUM

Finally, an ally!

...you really care about them, huh?

I knew he was nice...

And what's more...

...he's really **concerned** about us.

Women are creatures that value relationships above all else.

Once the bonds between them are severed—

Maybe this'll be my chance to get to know him better...!

Still...this is quite a thorny situation. They might very well be past the point of reconci-liation...

...Huh?

Hey. Look.

Isn't that them?

Kudo-san's a good fifty laps behind.

...

Nana-
shima...

...here.

meiji

meiji

※Mushroom Mountain
明治チョコスナック
きのこの山

She got a head start...

I picked these up yesterday.

I thought maybe we could eat them together.

...they just don't taste right when you're eating alone.

After all...

Hach-san...!!

うわあああ WAAAH!

Hach-san! Hach-san!!

I'm sorry I was so mean to you!

Nah. **I'm** sorry. Okay?

We're BFFs!

やあああ waaah!!

What?!

And so, Azuma-kun wasted three precious days...

...What am I, chopped liver?

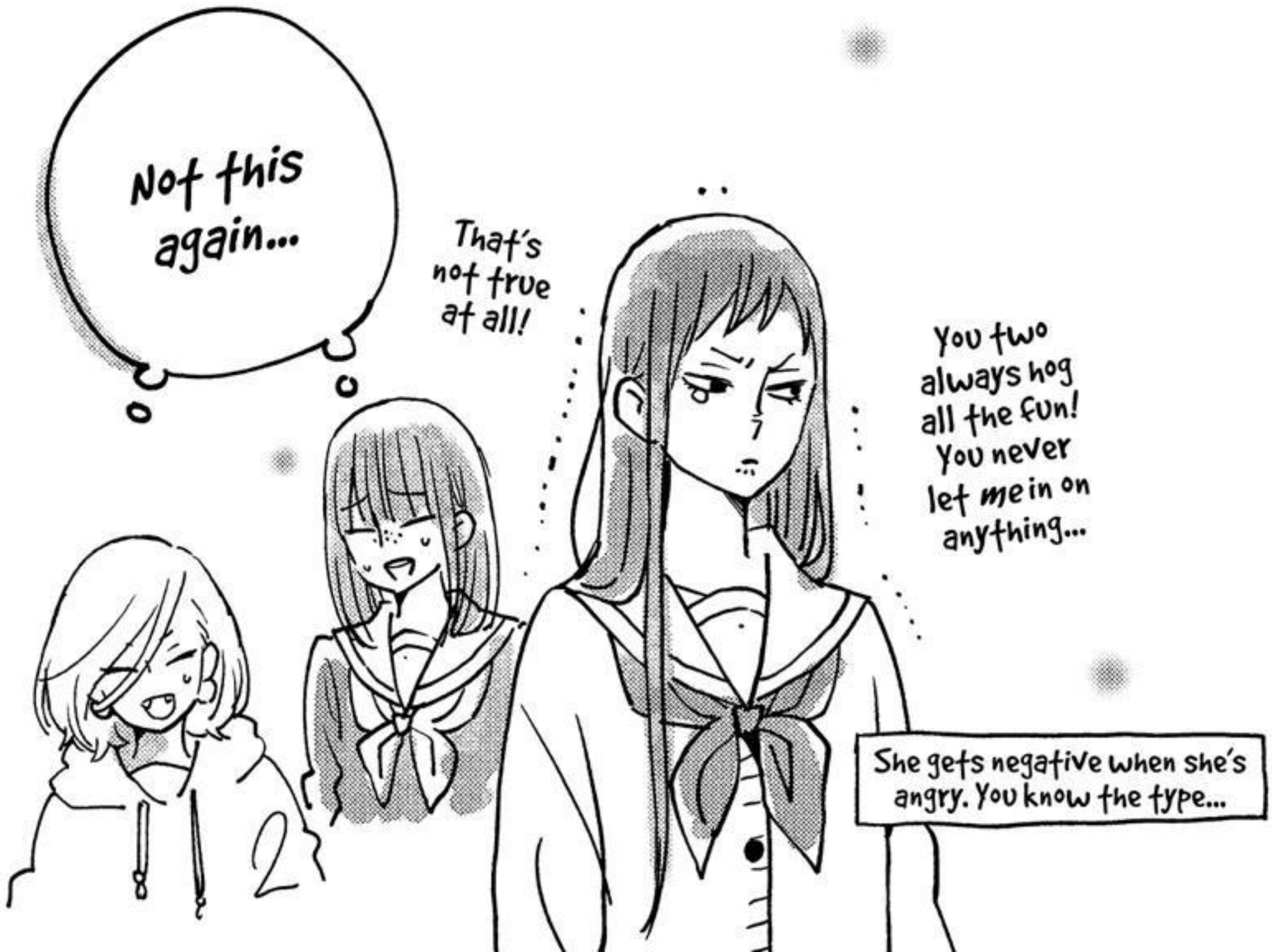
Where do you two get off making up without me?

Another fuse has been lit...

Sure.

Hey, let's play soccer on our lunch break.

...but he thought to himself, "well, as long as I can focus on my writing now, I suppose this was all worth it."


Not this again...
That's not true at all!
You two always hog all the fun! You never let me in on anything...
She gets negative when she's angry. You know the type...

THE TOOLS MAKE THE MAN...

One brand-new mechanical pencil: 150 Yen

New Stationary!

That black leather writer's sketchbook I picked up the other day was pretty cool, too...

A small price to pay for a little motivation!

What? 2,200 yen? Count me out... Then again, it's a small price to pay for a little motivation...

Time to investigate...

しTHWIP TWIP TWIP TWIP たたた

Then again, a fountain pen might have a certain... mystique.

Still... 2,200, huh...?!

URRGH... くおお

WILL YOU HURRY UP AND WRITE?

You're not getting anywhere!

Mental Aizawa-san's Girlfriendly Affectations... are Pretty over the Top...

...when you've got me?♡ You bad boy! ♡

Oh, Azuma-kun! What are you doing talking about other girls...

So now 's picking fights...! Enough, already!

のくすくす HEE HEE

ep. 33 Two-Time Confidants



...on this story.

第2理科準備室

*SCIENCE PREP ROOM #2

I'm not making any progress...

Looks like he made progress to me.

I was wondering if you could take a look at what I've got so far and tell me what you think.

I understand I'm asking a lot of you...

...but I'm stuck inside my own head. I can't be objective about what I'm writing at all.

Oh! Well, believe me!

I'm not exactly happy with that, myself!

Well, it's certainly changed a lot since the last time I saw it...

He's got a million ex-cuses...

Or perhaps... I mean, I'm well aware it's a bit incoherent! Maybe it just... needs a little kneading at this point!

I sup-pose you could say it's all...preli-minary!

I was just... looking for a way to get through this writer's block, and by the time I realized it, I'd changed everything!

Calm down.

What do you **want** from me?

WELL, DON'T FEEL LIKE YOU HAVE TO HOLD BACK, BUT PLEASE! BE AS GENTLE AS HUMANLY POSSIBLE!

ドキ ドキ BA-DUM BA-DUM

EEEP!

Well, if you think you could use an outside perspective, I guess I can give it a look.

I can't promise I'll be much help, though...

Thank you so much...!!

TMP トーン TMP

...I'd say that about covers it.

Welp...

Who knew it carried so much **impact** to have your work read by someone else...?!

HUFF PUFF

SLUMP

You've got a good idea of what you're going for here.

If you can just narrow in on what you really **need** to write...

...then I bet that'll help the story take shape.

Take shape, huh...?

...

Hmm...

Oh, I don't know. I don't know many guys who **dislike** feeling like they've proven useful.

Look, I know this isn't exactly the feedback you were hoping for...

...but the scene where the main character steps in to rescue the heroine.

I'm curious. Don't guys find that **annoying**?

Parti-cularly for someone they're fond of.

Hmmm...

...

It's just a matter of time until Azuma-kun and I are official!!

Things couldn't be going better!

LA LA LA

LAAA!

Come to think of it...what **is** he working so hard on, I wonder?

Maybe he's doing something for **me**!!

It **does** seem like he's going all out on... whatever he's up to.

Positive Thinking!

Azuma-kun! Caffeine-kun!

Hey there.

Hey, Aizawa-san.

Wait till you hear this, Aizawa-san!

What are **you** two talking about over here?

CAFFEINE'S GOT A GIRLFRIEND!

Uh, but the thing is...

I swear! Who told you to go sneaking around behind my back again?!

YOU DON'T SAY!

...

HA HA HA!

What are you talking about?

You're in the athletics club! Where do you get off getting all... lovelorn?!

I'm sorry. Do you two think you can keep this a secret?

...she doesn't want me telling anyone else about us.

WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN (. MAN)?

TLING!

Me and my big mouth...

You guys sure are suckers for this stuff, huh?

She doesn't want to let anyone know.

I don't really get it either...

I'm getting déjà vu...

I dunno. I guess she's embarrassed or something.

FRET FRET

Oh, Hamarin! This again?!

How is that supposed to make him feel...?!

RUMBLE

She's embarrassed to be seen with you, is she...?

I believe I feel a certain kinship with this girl.

A...a date?!

I never heard about this!

Still...there's more. We had our first date the other day, and...

Oh! Is **that** all?

HA HA HA

There's no greater embarrassment.

I know how she feels.

Telling the world you're dating is a little bit like shouting from the rooftops about how blessed you are.

S-sorry I'm late!

HUFF

PUFF

I showed up at the wrong place.

I was a little late to meet up with her, and...

...you didn't have to go to all that trouble to meet me,

she said...

You know...

You think she was mad at me?

H-Hamarin!!

Way to go, Caffeine!

She just strikes me as modest, that's all.

He knows?!

?!

No. She was probably nervous.

It **was** your first date, after all.

...

Really?

She just meant you could have taken your time.

Think about how she phrased it! She was looking out for you.

...and if we run into someone we know, she runs and hides.

Okay, but when we're walking together, she always keeps her distance...

MENU

SWISH

And just like that, Aizawa-san's demure restraint returned...

Look at it this way. Maybe this just goes to show how much you mean to her.

It's possible she's just terrified of the remote possibility that she'll be teased.

I thought she just hated me!

No way! The world's not **that** cruel...

She's simply exercising a little caution.

I don't mind!

A-are you sure you want to come along?

It'll probably be pretty boring...

You know, we only went on this date in the first place because she mentioned she was going to this used bookstore. I invited myself along.

Take as long as you like.

If I get bored, I'll find a way to kill time.

Hamarin ...!!

And then she didn't come out for, like, two hours.

I totally forgot!

S-sorry!

HUFF HUFF ぜぇぜぇ

...Okay.

Kinda funny, really.

I'VE BEEN THERE!!

THAT'S ABOUT HOW LONG IT TAKES TO SET IN!

That's book-stores for you.

No kidding? Well, thanks.

She must be some girl! Very considerate.

Comes with the territory when you're sharing someone's hobbies with them!

If I were in her shoes, I wouldn't have even thought to apologize!!

You're a good guy, Caffeine!

Not that there's ever been anything to worry about there.

If she's willing to share her hobbies with you...

...I think that proves she trusts you.

...

Yeah.

I've been thinking...

...the same thing.

Good for you!

You've got yourself a wonderful girlfriend.

I've never known you to lavish praise on people like that.

I'm late to my club!

Crap!

DING-DONGGG

I'm surprised, Azuma-kun!

Yeah, well...

...he just seemed so happy to tell me about her.

I can't stand when people do that.

Hey! I thought you were hanging out with me! Who are **you** texting?

My girlfriend.

I couldn't just send him on his way without wishing him well!

I just hope...

...I get to **meet** this girl someday.

Caffeine's girlfriend, I mean.

How long are you planning on keeping this secret, Hamarin...?

BOOM

Yikes!

Look at all these people...

ザワ
ザワ
MURMUR

I was hoping we could catch a movie...

Well, we're not getting anywhere in *this* crowd...

I guess I held us up a little too long.

S-sorry...

MURMUR
ザワ
ザワ

はっ
WHAP

S... sorry...!

Aah!

WHOA!

GSHH

ガシ

ドンっ
THUMP

I don't mind!

You didn't have to let go, you know.

Wouldn't wanna get swept away, after all.

...

SIGH

ホー

鋼鉄都市

ドキ

BA-DUM

わた

わた

DRIP DRIP

ガサ

TSHH TSHH

ガサ

Evening, Hamada-san!

You ready to head home?

Uh, s-sure.

Good evening to you, too.

Hmm?

What are you doing hiding all the way out here? ι

I didn't want anyone running into me on their way home...

PEEK

チラ

コソコソ

SHFF SHFF

...You're still not ready to tell anyone, huh?

ooo

Huh?

About us.

I...

...kind of want to.

I just...

...don't want you ruining your reputation over me.

...about embarrassing the person I like...because they were seen with me...it scares me.

... when I think...

Takahashi-kun...this might not make sense to you or Nozomin, but...

Huh?!

What's that supposed to mean?

SMILE

SMILE

What are *you* smiling about?

...

Oh, uhh,

it's just...

...unless I'm misunderstanding something, Hamada-san, you just said you like me!

Well, hey.

No rush.

Maybe then...

...you won't worry quite so much.

We've just got to stay together long enough for it to feel normal.

I could shout our love from the rooftops...

Oh!

If it's *embarrassing me* you're worried about, maybe I should just embarrass you!

Ha ha!

Come on, Takahashi-kun!

Don't be such a goof.

It could get a little *awkward* cooking up a reason why we're always walking home together...

Sounds good to me!

Well...

...maybe we could tell our clubmates, I guess.

SCRATCH

...

Kissed...?!

Whoa! Sorry. Joking.

I wouldn't do that, anyway. Wouldn't wanna make you uncomfortable.

I can just hear them now. "Have you held hands? Have you *kissed*?!"

For your sake, I mean.

Might not be a bad idea to keep it secret from our classmates, though.

?

BLUSH

...I, uhh...

...don't think I'd be too uncomfortable with that...

...

REALLY?

Oh. Yeah.

I...I mean, you *were* joking, right?

Huh?

Huh?

Oh, now he can come out and say it?!

I'M CRAZY ABOUT YOU!

BUT IF YOU REALLY DON'T MIND, I WOULD LIKE TO!

...Kidding.

FWIP

Ha

I...

...I'd mind.

...I didn't say...

Whoa...

Whoa...

Whoa...

...

PAT

ぽん

GASP!!

ヒッ!!

Whoaaa!

...He's taking notes?

I wonder what that's about...

zzz

zzz

Oh, Azuma-kun! What are you doing sleeping here?

...but hang in there,♡ Azuma-kun...! ♡

Welp! Beats me...

Did they break up already?!

THEN... WHO WAS THAT GIRL HE WAS ASKING US ABOUT THE OTHER DAY?

Eeek

THEY'RE GOING OUT?!

Huh?

Huh?!

...she finally told him everything.

And then ...

He's as dense as ever.

Classified Information


You're free to date as many girls as you please, of course!
You know, caffeine, I think it's high time you settle down.
But Hamada-san's done a lot for me, you see, and...
Do I even care enough to explain here..?
HRUMPH
HRUMPH
木千
木千

HAMARIN AND CAFFEINE: WHAT HAPPENED AFTERWARDS

The girl who came in second place...

w-well, I'm...glad things seem to be moving right along, anyway...

y-yeah... We haven't even been going out that long!

Huh?! You k-kissed on the way home from school?!

ZIP

T-Taka-shi-kun!

Their relation-ship may not be classified information anymore... but Hamarin's more self-conscious than ever.

She's running away...

Huh? Isn't that your girlfriend?

Club Member

EEK!

ZOOM

!?

Think you can outrun an athletics club member, huh?!

MAYBE THIS IS ALL FUN AND GAMES TO *YOU*, BUT—

Oh, it just... seemed like fun! *Ha ha!*

WH-WHAT ARE YOU *CHASING* ME FOR?!

HACK HACK HACK

HACK

Be-sides...

...the closer I need to be.

Here! Have a lollipop.

somehow, I get the feeling that, the more you play hard to get...

Fin

There's this saying that goes, "the child is father to the man..."

...meaning that the foundation of a person's personality is laid in early childhood.

Hey, you.

Mop-top.

Go fill up this bucket.

Step on it.

Looking back on it...

...by the time I met her, she'd already become who she is today.

ep. 34 Boys' Labyrinth

BOKU

I knew my place, so I helped her out.

I knew she'd just chew me out if I didn't hop to...

...and Shiro was already crying his eyes out, so...

HA HA HA! OH, KEISUKE-KUN!

Did you know he challenged her to a duel once? Wrote her a letter and everything!

He got his ass handed to him, of course.

WOW! REALLY?

That's what's amazing about the guy. No matter how many times he gets whooped, he gets right back up for more.

If it were me, I'd—

カランコロン TLING TLING

Hmm.

I see a **bug's** bothering my darling little Nozomi-chan.

Who ever said she was **yours**?!

HUFF HUFF

Suzu-sempai!! Azuma-kun!

Here we are! Right by the train station!

WHAT WERE **YOU** DOING WITH HER?!

WH-WH-WHAT ON **EARTH** WAS THAT PICTURE ABOUT, KEISUKE?!

Sorry for the wait, Nozomi-chan.

Shall we?

I just happened to run into her.

She had plans to meet up with Suzu here.

... Hmm?

Do me a favor? If you see me on the street, don't call out to me.

Yep! Come spring, I'll be a city girl.

You already got a place picked out?

You're living on your own, huh? Lucky you.

YEESH! OKAY, STRANGER!

Aren't you?

She's helping me shop for my big move.

She's shopping for appliances and wanted my advice on how to keep it reasonable, so...

See you.

We have a **date.**

Why don't you two run along and take a dump or something?

HONK HONK

What now? You wanna hit the arcade?

CHATTER

No, I'd better get back to writing.

She sure is vulgar...

Yeah.

Ooh!
You sure have been working hard at that lately, huh?

Yes.
And **your** stupid little prank pulled me away from it. I was **busy!**

...Once this story's done...

I just love how you always fall for it!

...I'm asking Aizawa-san out.

Oh, **sure.** Simple as that...

YEP! THAT'LL WORK OUT.

For real?

That's awe-some!

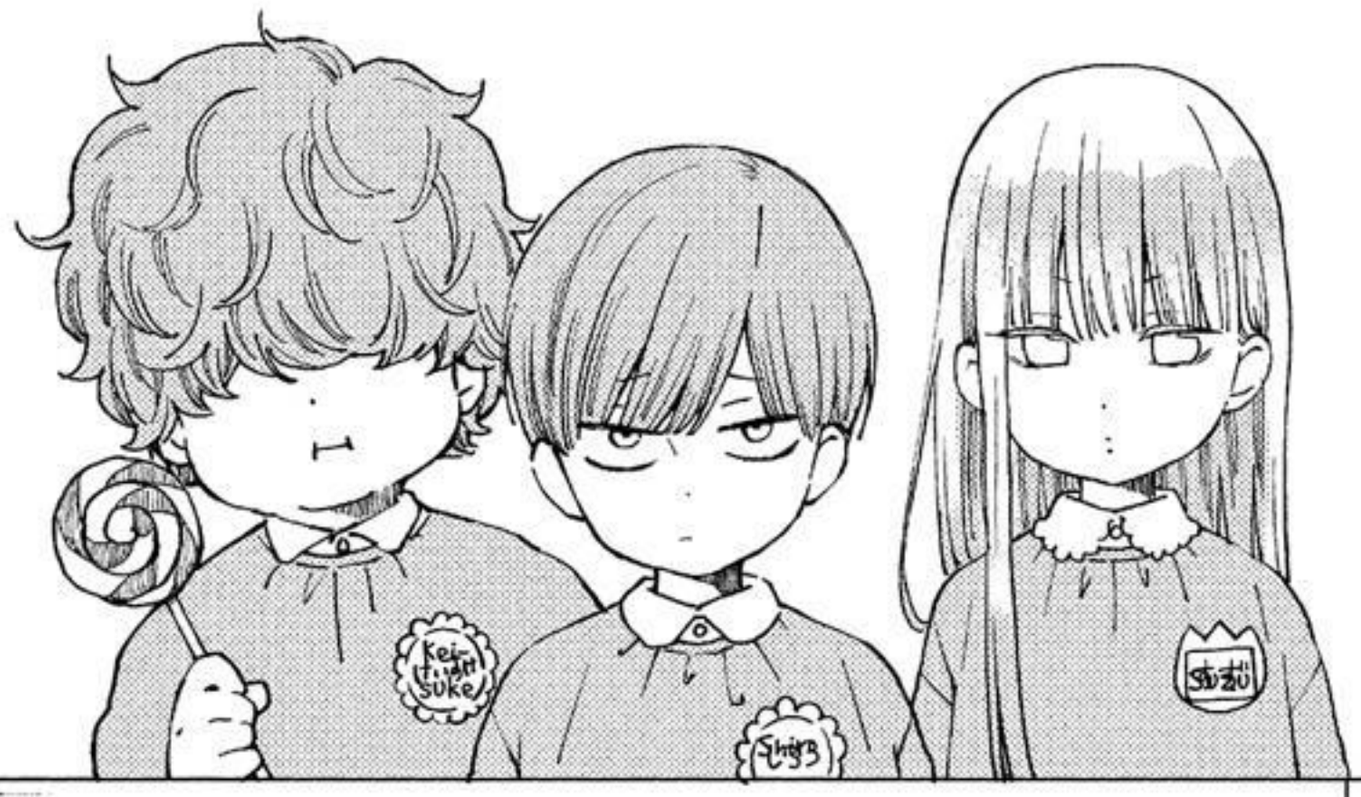
Me and Shiro are what you'd call...

That's all it would take to change your life?

Maybe I ought to get a perm...

We're all moving on in life, huh?

...childhood friends.



As far back as I can remember...

Did you finish your snack, Kei-chan?

Come on, hurry up!

It's time for your piano lessons!

...and me, the chubby kid.

You had Shiro the runt...

...Suzu the tom-boy...

...I spent all my time playing at his place.

TSHH

TSHH

The power of love is great indeed!

Bravo, Nozomi-chan.

Still... ...my Shiro's gonna ask someone out?

I know this is out of nowhere... but I've got a thing for Suzu.

Let's see,

cocoa... cocoa...

Not that I ever plan to **tell** anyone.

Ever since I could count my age on my fingers, I've been a textbook case of unrequited love.

Why not, you ask?

Well, nothing's ever come of my feelings for her till **now.**

Why would that ever change?

Hey, Keisuke!

Good idea!

Make some for me, too.

What you got there? Hot cocoa?

SHHK

Hey, Nadeshiko?

Have you seen my gear anywhere?

Aw, get your own.

Besides, I only boiled enough milk for two.

Your what?

My camp-ing gear.

I'm camping solo this week. I left it in the house.

I'm sure **Hina-giku** knows ...

What, you're making some for **Shiro**?

It's fine. He won't miss it.

She must be up to her old tricks—

FWOOSH

My old what, now?

HUH?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT! ♡

Don't play dumb. You were the only one here, anyway.

Hina.

You hid my camping gear, right?

Spit it out.

CLACK CLACK

These ladies are Azuma's aunts. They're thick as thieves.

You'd be nothing but trouble.

I know how boy-crazy you are.

I want in on your chic little camping trip, too!

WHAT'S ALL THIS "CAMPING SOLO" BUSI-NESS?

IT'S *YOUR* FAULT FOR NEVER PLAYING WITH ME, RENGE-CHAN!

They've had guys waiting on them hand and foot for their entire lives.

Renge, 3rd daughter

That's **my** business.

Hinagiku, 4th daughter

You're one to talk, Renge-chan! You bagged yourself a boyfriend hiking in the mountains!

Kei-suke! Where's my chamomile tea?

↑ She's already changed her order on him...

Nadeshiko, 2nd daughter

The Ichinomiya Sisters

They miss their older sister, Azuma's mom, very much...

...so they're a common sight around the home all year round.

GLP uP uP uP ぼぼぼぼ

Chamomile tea, coming right up!

Yes, yes, of course!

*There was never a dull moment when **they** were around.*

You just roll over and do whatever I tell you!

You're no fun, you know.

Unlike Shiro, **I** learned not to fight back a **long time ago.**

It's a waste of energy.

ABSOLUTELY NOT!

ESPECIALLY NOT NOW!!

HEY! SUZU, LISTEN TO ME!

SUZU...!

WHAT?!

YOU'RE BRINGING AIZAWA-SAN OVER?!

She's bringing Aizawa-chan over, huh?

That's no good! The gang's all here...

!!

BAM

Damn her!

When will she learn to listen to people?!

Is it really that tough?

Writing?

I'm done for. A waste of a man...!

And I can't even write!

It's over...!

They're going to find out about Aizawa-san!

FLOP

And so positive!

...but I can't make it **move** anyone at all!

I can **imagine** what I want to write...

I know now more than ever just how thoroughly I failed to take notice of those around me.

You've really got your back against the wall, huh...?

I can tell she's growing more and more eager to say something as the days go by, too...! I'm sure she's fed up with me.

SLUMP

And I promised Aizawa-san it would be two weeks...! That boat sailed **ages** ago...

I was beginning to think you'd hate girls...

...for the rest of your life!

Still, I'm surprised **you** got it in your head to ask a girl out.

Yes, well, this is Aizawa-san we're talking about.

Hey! What about your story?

TMP TMP

GASP!

OF COURSE! THIS IS NO TIME FOR WALLOWING!

I'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE AIZAWA-SAN DOESN'T MEET THOSE THREE!

がばっ

FWAP

This is why you get teased.

You've got to stop **reacting** like that!

Yes, well, this is Aizawa-san we're talking about.

Kei-chan, Hurry up!

Well... I know the feeling.

...and **then** you've got to study up on your English tonight!

...then your abacus lessons...

It's time for your piano lessons ...

Did you eat your rice ball, honey?

Come on in, little piggy!

Oh!

Hey, there.

Look, you.

...but that doesn't mean you can be **mean** to him.

I know you're jealous of Shiro...

Hey!

Keisuke!

If I can tough it out...

...then so can you.

I don't get it! I was just staring at him thinking, man, I wish I could flirt with the girls...

She never showed, after all...

...but what you said to me that day just knocked me out cold.

Thanks for having me!

That was when I told myself **I'd** be the one to protect you from the world.

Oh!

Hey, Keisuke.

Suzu...

He's got a lot going on.

Look, you've got to think of **Shiro's** situation, too, you know!

I know, but... if I had to face Kaede-chan and the others right now,

I might break down and cry...

She said she had to go home.

I wouldn't want to get in Azuma-kun's way,

so...

Ah, I see.

She's a good girl.

What are you doing? Weren't you taking Aizawa-chan over to Shiro's place?

Of course.

...when she's feeling lonely.

Look, you.

but that doesn't mean

I know you're jealous of Shiro...

WHAT?!

YOU'RE BRINGING AIZAWA-SA OVER?!

She always looks for someone to tag along with...

Aren't you?

She's helping me shop for my big move.

PONG

PONG

She's shopping for appliances and wanted my advice on how to keep it reasonable, so...

Hey, I was wondering.

When you move out on your own... would you mind if I came to see you?

Oh.

Crap.

That was **not** good.

It was pretty creepy, in fact.

Now I've done it...

...into my castle?

Idiot.

You think I'd let a guy like **you**...

Ah.

Guess not.

Not in a hundred years.

If I let **you** losers into my cute apartment, you'd stink the place up.

HA HA HA

OUCH.

VRRM VRRM

CHUGGA CHUGGA

You got it.

See you.

Tell Shiro I'm not coming over tonight, okay?

Wait... no she didn't.

She bailed me out.

ボ

ZZZ

ボ

BZZZ.

ボ

She blew me off.

Whoa.

What are you doing here, Keisuke?

BOOOM

ヒュー

SLUMP

ずーん

She painted a smile on her face and went home.

I thought you went home.

I'm done for...

I never meant to...

...tell her!

I said something super creepy to the girl I like...

...and she blew me off.

...Well...

...you're lucky you didn't get your head bitten off, really.

You know how she is.

The densest man in the whole world figured me out...!

FLOP

Are you kidding?

Kill me...

U-UHH, u u

I DON'T THINK ANYONE ELSE HAS CAUGHT ON...

You knew I liked Suzu?

It's sort of obvious.

... Well, I had a hunch.

Huh?

You knew?

U U U

...you intended to keep it from her forever.

For a while, I thought...

I did, man!

But...I panicked!

I mean, she's leaving soon...

...and I was like, do I really want to let it end like this?

Suzu gets...

...lonely, you know?

Well, if you ask me...

...you might as well go all the way now.

みかん

She just doesn't let it show to Mom or her sisters...

...because she doesn't think it would be right.

I suspect she's been very grateful...

...to have you around.

...Huh? You think?

Simple as that, huh...?

I gotta say, I'm surprised to hear this from you!

Well...

...she may be a monster, but she's still human.

Still...

...even if I do come out and say it...

...but I have a hard time believing it'll **change** anything. Nothing's changed all these years, after all.

Well, sure it didn't. You never **did** anything all these years.

You'll never know if you never say anything.

Keisuke

Can you come out for a sec?

Who would have guessed...

...it'd be Shiro lighting a fire under **me?**

It wasn't that long ago...

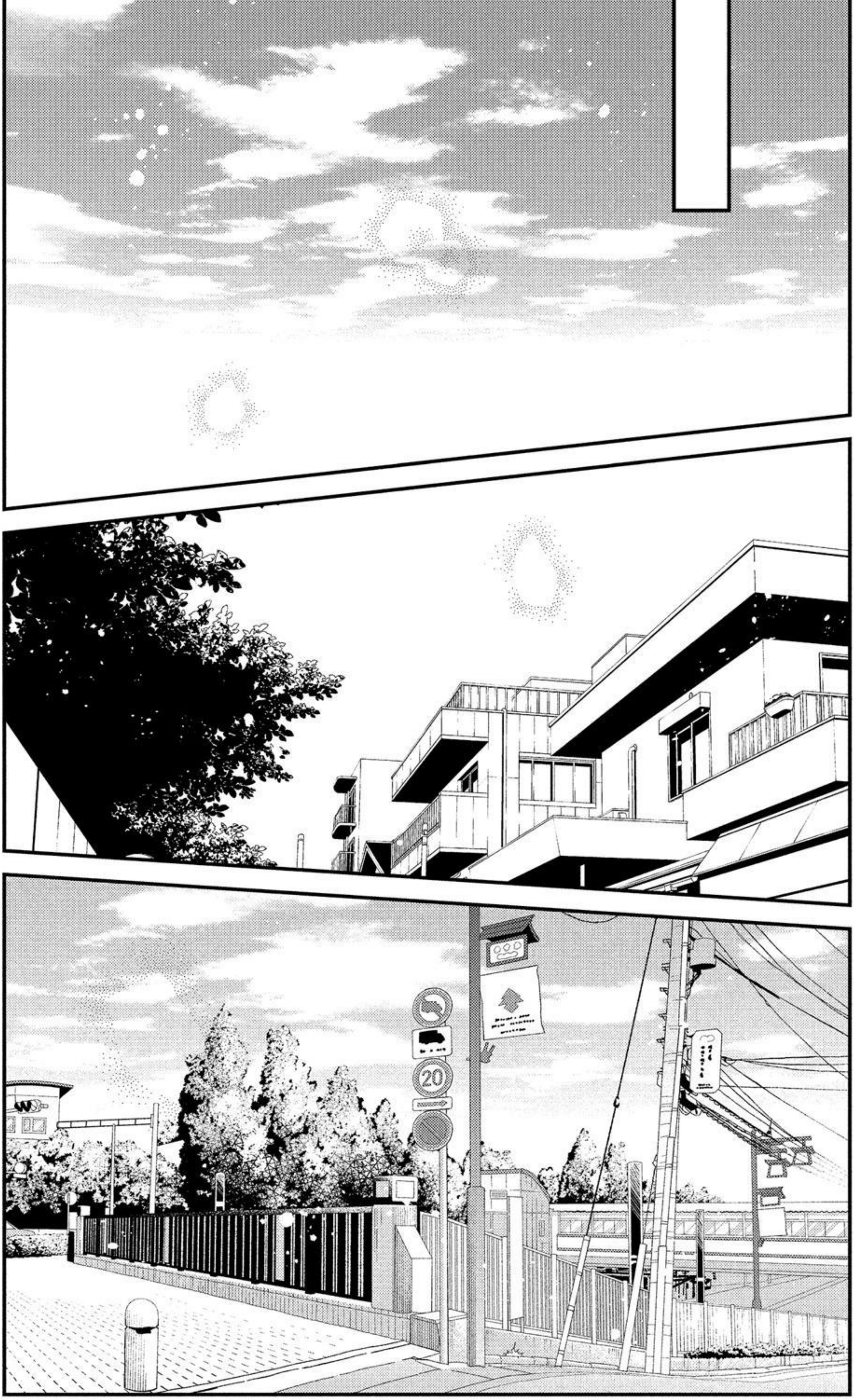
...that you said all women were your enemies.

Who said **you** could go and grow up on me?

All that's left to do now...

...is write...

...what I can.


20



All done...

落葉


Nadeshiko
Hedonist
Bamboo-copter older brother
Sadist
Renge
Easy Come, Easy Go
Loves Fresh Meat
Sadist
Hinagiku
Femme Fatale
Loves Renge
Sadist

MIDDLE SCHOOL DAYS

...the three of them fell out of touch.

He grew straight up, not out.

Once they graduated elementary school...

...and Shiro's small stature meant his schoolmates tended to dote on him.

Keisuke's home life made him a bit of a grouch...

As for Suzu...

...about the beautiful older girl with a thing for gardening.

Hey, jerk. Don't walk there.

JOLT

...it didn't take long for word to spread across the school...

They did run into each other in the halls sometimes!

He sure is looking spiky...

Bleached Mop-top

zzz
すー
zzz
すー
zzz
すー

...Azuma-kun finished his story.

Last time on Our Precious Conversations...

But the next day, he stood face-to-face with an all-new dilemma!

?

It only stands to reason that once I say I'm ready to tell her how I feel, she'll ask me what I've been doing all this time, *thought Azuma.*

And if he papered over it with a little white lie after making her wait for so long... it'd only make things even more awkward.

"Do I show Aizawa-san my novel, or don't I...?"

ep. 35 Our Precious Conversations

...was tantamount to a girl letting a boy see her panties.

In other words, to Azuma-kun, letting Aizawa-san read his work...

To show that work is to lay bare their soul.

But every creative person regards their work as a part of who they are.

I drew this in like 5 minutes lmao

Sorry, I'm a first-timer

This is a mess, but I'm uploading it anyway

Here's something I just kinda jotted down...

This is crap, but I think it's got heart anyway

*This is why creative people of all stripes hedge against criticism when they upload their work to social media.

へいわ台商店会

積 3 t

20

へいわばし

CLONG ちーん

...from Azuma-kun.

I still haven't heard a word...

It's been, like, two weeks since he said he'd be ready...

Once I'm ready, I'll tell you again how I feel.

You don't... think he's **forgotten,** do you...?

PEEK ひょい

Aizawa-san...

...and I feel like I'd be **badgering** him if I said anything.

But...but...! I've been looking forward to it for ages!

Morning.

Morning!

I don't suppose you've got some time today?

GASP!!

ビクッ!!

A-Azuma-kun?!

Morn-ing.

Listen. Do you remem-ber what I promised you a few weeks ago?

S...SURE!

H...here we go!!

BA-THUMP

ドキ!!

Thanks.

I'll see you at lunch.

キーン
コーン
カーン
コーン
DING-DONG

Finally...! Here we go.

Today's the day.

I don't care **what** he asks. I'm going to say yes...!

"Will you make me miso soup in the mornings?"

"Will you go out with me?"

And he asked me to meet him **here** of all places...! I wonder what he's going to say!

BA-DUM
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
ドキドキドキドキ

BA-DUM ドキ
BA-DUM ドキ

Here he comes!

BA-THUMP ドキッ

ZSHH

Aizawa-san...

What did you want to talk about?

This.

H-hello, Azuma-kun!

I WANT YOU TO READ IT.

A... a love letter...?!

It's **huge**, too!

It's a novel.

A work of fic-tion.

AND I'M THE... ONE WHO WROTE IT.

H... huh?!

びっくり!! WHOA!!

...

You... wrote a novel, Azuma-kun?

Wait...is **this** what you've been working on this whole time?

...Yeah.

...but I kept you waiting for two weeks and all.

I didn't think it would be right to just...not say anything.

I just finished it yesterday.

I wasn't sure whether I wanted to show it to you...

THAT'S ALL!

I JUST... THOUGHT YOU DESERVED TO KNOW **WHY** I KEPT YOU WAITING SO LONG,

BABBLE アセ BABBLE アセ

OH! B-BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO... READ IT OR ANYTHING!

After all, if not for all our conversations...

...I never could have written this.

I wanted you to be the first to see it.

...mind if I borrow this book?

Do you...

It's your precious story, after all.

I want to give it a good, thorough reading, if you don't mind.

Okay.

I really handed it over to her...

Forget asking her out **now!**

I'm so embarrassed, I could die!

あ あ あ あ

AAAHHH!

I'm fading fast...

You think she'll read it?! Of course she will.

Oh, God... What if she thinks it's garbage?

あ

Well, whatever the case, I've given it to her.

What's done is done.

I wonder...

...what you'll say.

It's your precious story...

...after all.

If she dumps me, I'll...

...drop dead.

OH 04
OH 03
へいわ台
へいわだい
Heiwadai
平和台高校入口
*Heiwadai High School
つぶ貝
Tsubukai
隣野
Tonarino

GATACK

ゴトン

GOTOCK

ゴトン

GATACK

ゴトン

GOTOCK

へいわだい

Heiwadai

つぶ貝　（平和台高校入口）

肛門科・ひふ科
よしじま医院

診療時間
月火 9:00~5:00
水木 10:00~5:00
金土 9:00~3:00
日祝 9:00~12:00

薬

運行のお知らせ

...

GATACK GOTOCK

Why is it...

...that girls like romance so much?

*Kokoro by Natsume Soseki

Exit

You'd think the fate of the **world** hinged on it!

Since time immemorial, romance has accounted for the vast majority of *shojo* manga...

...and it's always this roller-coaster ride of "he loves me, he loves me not."

...but aren't boys' comics always about who's stronger?

You say that...

Still, I must say...

Especially in this day and age?

What does it **matter** who wins and loses?

Why do boys love **tournaments** so much?

...I'm surprised!

I sure didn't expect you to write a **romance novel**...

...

I read it a hundred times!

Of course I did! *You* wrote it, after all!

*So **that's** why she kept it for five days ...?*

*I could have **died** waiting for her to give it back to me!*

Azuma-kun...

I figured she must have hated it...

You, uuh...

...sure took your time reading it.

...it was wonderful.

肛門科・ぴふ科
じま医院
楽
運行のお知らせ

It **was** a bit hard to **follow** at times, of course...

I'm well aware it's not the easiest read.

I beg you. Stop.

It had your trademark cynicism...

...and it was **so** romantic.

That was my favorite part.

Most of all...

...I think it gave me a peek into how you see the world, Azuma-kun.

"...so I want to keep talking to you."

You know...

"I just can't seem to understand you..."

...it really is...

...just like you, Azuma-kun.

I thought to try my hand at romance...

...because I thought it was the best way to gain insight into the human condition.

I've always found there's nothing as puzzling...nor as fascinating...

...as people.

But I decided to write romance...

...and it's all thanks to you, Aizawa-san.

...even if I was out of my element.

I decided to confront that...

...go out with me?

Will you...

I love you, Aizawa-san.

...Hee hee.

Azuma-kun...

...do you remember the first time we spoke here?

?!

Some-
how...

...I
think
you
know...

...my answer.

...YES!

HOOONK

110

GATACK

GATACK

GOTOCK

GOTOCK

AIZAWA-SAN'S PLACE

Th... thanks.

THUMP THUMP THUMP

ドッ ドッ ドッ

I wonder if her family's home...

I can't just send you home without tea!

And then they arrived.

N-no...

Yep!

Something wrong?

...This is your place?

FWOMP...

It wasn't quite what he'd pictured...

DATING

I'm so happy...! I can't believe it! We're really going out!!

じ～ん

SNIFF

Much to Aizawa-san's surprise, Azuma-kun walked her home after their date.

W-well, we're almost there, Azuma-kun! Say, uhh...you wanna come inside?

And as they arrived...

I don't want to say goodbye just yet...!

After you!

I—I can't...! Perhaps we're official now, but I think it's a bit too early for that! What kind of man do you take me for, anyway?!

What's the matter, Azuma-kun? I was just thinking we could have some tea, that's all!

DRIP

DRIP

DROP

HE WANTS NO PART OF THIS

Oh, Ryuji, don't be so grumpy! Are you worried he's gonna take me away from now?

Shut up, you ditz!

...Yo.

This is Azuma-kun.

Hey. どうも

Welp! Let's go inside!

Dude. Are you sure?

Dude!!

Wait a sec. You're **cool** with that, Azuma?

Huh?

Wait. Holy crap! You're letting him in the apartment?

He's not even directly involved, and he couldn't help but shudder...

ENTER THE BROTHER

And lately, something's been bothering me... My sister's stuff is starting to encroach on my territory.

I'm Ryuji. I'm in my first year of high school.

But this is my sister we're talking about here. it'd be almost criminal.

AZUM

I'm not exaggerating when I say Azuma's invading. Or when I say I'd like to burn all this stuff.

The Siblings' Bedroom

OH!

Welcome back, Ryuji!

God, that scared me! I thought she'd made a cardboard cutout of him!

Is this your little brother?

Yep! His name's Ryuji.

Aah! It's Azuma. It's Azuma!

He wouldn't put it past her...

IF THINGS HAD BEEN DIFFERENT

Come on in!

So good to meet you!

Grand-ma was home.

And so, he joined them for tea.

Thank you, ma'am.

My name's Azuma. I'm lucky enough to be dating your grand-daughter.

Still...

...it's funny.

This room must only be 100 square feet...

...but they look like they're in the lap of luxury.

...and if you see what's on the other side, I'm afraid you won't survive.

This door never quite shuts right...

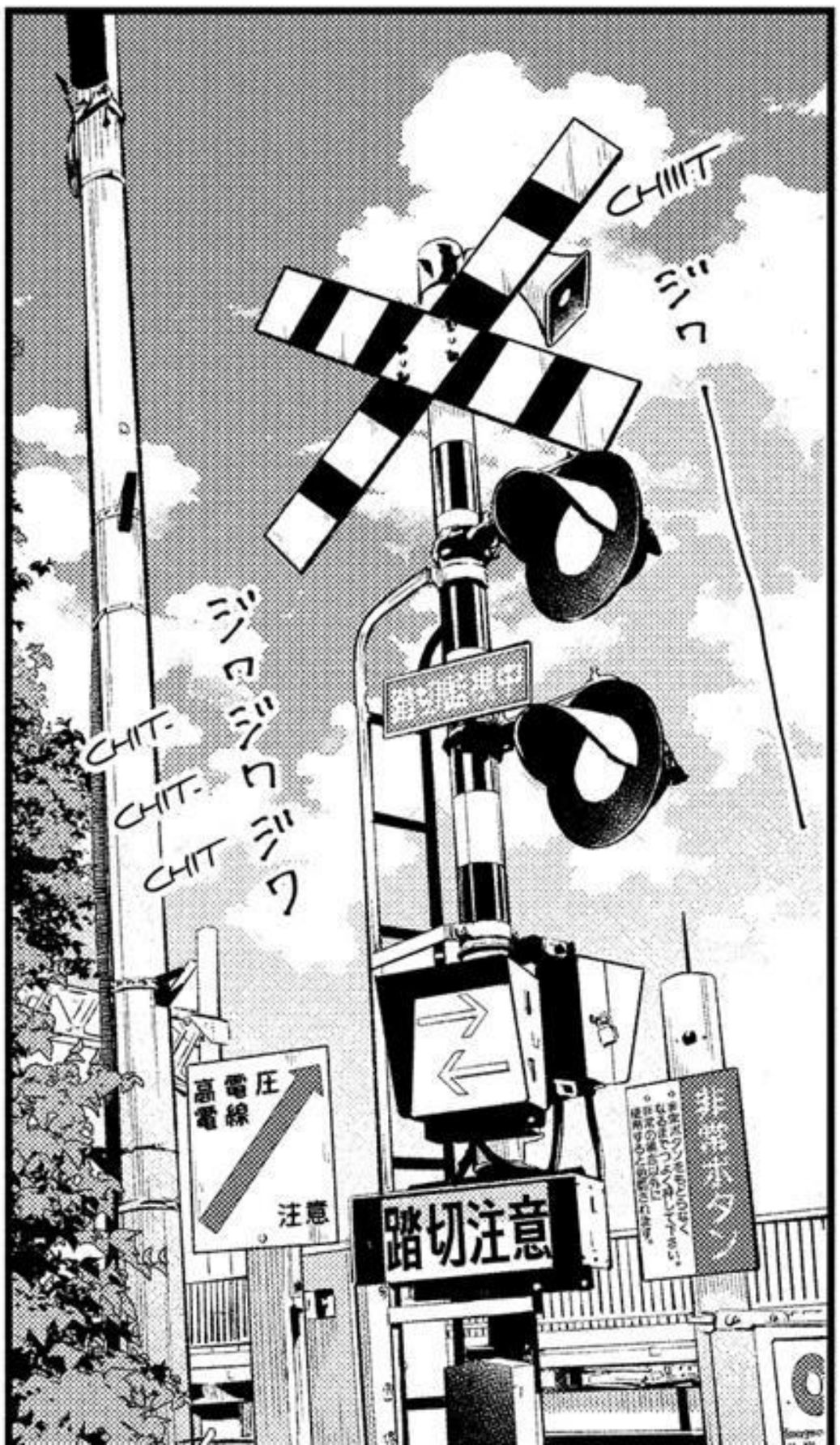
You don't mind staying put, do you?

I forgot all about my Azuma shrine...!

I think he might not like me...

ep. 36 Down the Road


This is the last chapter!




みーんみーんみーんみ

Nozomi-chan!
Nozomi-chan!



Hachi-san!

Morn-ing!

Get your homework done?

ザワ CHATTER

ザワ CHATTER

Of course!

But I'm not letting you copy it.

CHIIIT ジワ

CHIT-CHIT-CHIT ジワジワ

Aww! C'mon! Please?

You'd only be cheating yourself!

3-1

Morning.

Good morning.

CHATTER

CHATTER

Morn'in!

CHATTER

Good morning,

Tamaki-kun! Caffeine-kun!

Azuma-kun's not with you today, huh?

Never mind that.

HA HA HA! WAS HE UP ALL NIGHT AGAIN?

Phbbbt!

Nah. We **were** supposed to meet up.

Hey! Shouldn't you be in your own classroom?!

That's how you know he'll be famous someday!

Maybe he's running late.

YOU COULD AT LEAST GO AND PICK HIM UP, RIGHT? SINCE YOU'RE **DATING** AND ALL.♡

LET HIM KNOW YOU'RE WIFE MATERIAL! ♡

Oh, Hachi-san...!

WIFE? ME...?♡

EEK!

God...! This is the prettiest girl in our year, huh?

Damn you, Azuma...

What's so good about **him**? He's obnoxious, he's high-maintenance, he's always going on about men this, women that... and he's so stubborn!

He's proud, he's a gentle-man...

...even if he takes it a bit too far some-times..

The whole school's got morning assembly together this morning, right?

Maybe we should get there early...

I'm sure Azuma'll catch up soon.

CHIIIT じわ
じわじわ
CHIT-
CHIT-
CHIT じわ
じわ

OH, I JUST CAN'T CONTAIN MYSELF ANYMORE!

I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU, CLUB PREZ! THANK YOU SO MUCH!!

Good for you!

Ooh! You're in the A Class, huh?

Well, you took your writing very seriously. Looks like it's paid off.

Congra-tulations.

WHERE'S AZUMA-SEMPAI?

I WANT TO LET HIM KNOW...

...THAT I'VE MADE UP MY MIND TO MAKE MY DEBUT AS AN AUTHOR BEFORE **HE** EVER DOES!

Jeez. It's not a competition, you know...

His class is next door.

HEY, HEY,

HEY!

ZSHH

Easy there, second-years.

Morning assembly starts soon.

Your precious **club president** has somewhere to **be.**

SHFF

Morning!

Hey.

SHUFFLE

Oh! Good morning, Hamarin!

SHUFFLE

!

She sure has taken a liking to her...

Don't you, short stuff?

I'M NOT ANY SHORTER THAN **YOU**...

Wah ha ha

Besides, no one said you had to wait up for me.

M...
MORN-ING...
Good morning, Hamada-san.
Hey.
No kidding? Keisuke's not here, either...
what are those two up to?
Said he'd be late.
Huh? Where's Azuma?
ぴく
TWITCH
...
Call him up, Aizawa-san!
WIFE? ME...? ♡
No one said that.
There's a text-book I want to buy.
Can we hit the book-store on the way home?
O...
OKAY!
They've been going out for a while now...
...and I still just can't quite get over it...
SIGH...
CHATTER
PSST
Club prez, your boy-friend's so cool! And so tall!
So adult!!
HUH?!

?!

PAT

HEY.

LET'S GO!!

?

?

Morn-ing assem-bly's...

...just about to start!

Suzu...

Siro

Leaving already?

Where's Shiro?

He just left for school.

He said he couldn't be late today!

CHIT-CHIT-CHIT

CHIIIT

Well, he *is*.

It's past 9:00.

Kei-suke...

Well, hey, at least we all got a good meal out of it!

And then Renge-chan and the others caught me and made me stay the night...

Especially Shiro...

I've got homework, too. Then I've got to clock in.

I only came over last night to drop off some stuff.

...

So, when are you coming back? Summer break?

I was just asking! Don't be that way!

Don't you know when to quit?

What, you've still got a thing for me?

Girls don't like stubborn guys, you know!

Not that I need to **hide** it anymore, I guess.

I've never really...

...seen you that way.

I'm sorry.

I keep my promises.

Once I graduate, I'm headed your way.

You better be ready.

Still...

...you know.

ジワ

CHIIIT

If you really do like me, you can always follow me.

Maybe then...

...I will.

ジワ CHIT-

ジワ CHIT-

ジワ CHIT

I mean it! Don't be that way!!

VRRRM

And if I do, you better give up.

You never know! I might have a boyfriend by the time you're out of high school.

SIRO

CHIIIT

ジー

ジワ

CHIIIT

ジワ

ジワジワー

CHIT-
CHIT-
CHIIIT

There you are!

It's summer already...

CHIIIT ジワ

CHRRR ジ

CHIIIT ジワ

CHIT- CHIT- CHIT ジワジワジワ

CHIIIT ジワ

CHIT- CHIT- CHIT

...Hello, Aizawa-san!

Good morning, Azuma-kun.

I happened to be looking out the window when you got here.

How did you know where to find me?

I'M SO SORRY...

You ... You all right?

ぱ WHAP

コホン COUGH

!

と, THMP

EEK!

...and he's still such a gentle-man!

We've been going out for months now...

Yeah. They sure did.

And look what time it is now.

CHIIIT

CHIT-
CHIT-
CHIT

Ha ha ha! **Your aunts roped you into all that, huh?**

They make you look more diligent than you really are.

You know, Azuma-kun, you might as well do away with your glasses.

And then I got to thinking, what's the sense in hurrying if I'm already late...?

No sense in overdoing it in **this** heat. So I decided to stop here and eat a little ice cream.

I'VE GOT A NEW IDEA FOR A STORY.

OH, YES! I ALMOST FORGOT, AIZAWA-SAN!

Huh?

Besides, I figured with me around, Keisuke wouldn't...

I got the idea being around all the ridiculous women in my family.

It's a comedy...

...about a boy and girl who **pretend** their love is genuine, but they're leading each other on.

He always talks big before he starts writing!

I can't do this anymore!

And then after...

That's kind of a sick source of inspiration...

HA HA HA

It'll be a masterpiece!

Serves them right!!

The story will open at a train station...

...that's empty but for a boy and girl who share a bench.

ジワ——
CHIIIT
ジワジワジワ
CHIT-
CHIT-
CHIT

!!

CHIIIT
ジワ——

A...

A-Aizawa-san?

Wh-what's wrong—

...

CHIIIT
ジワ——
ジワジワ
CHIT-
CHIT

CHRRR
ジ

I just feel like it.

KREEE
EEOO
ナ
ナ！
ん ん
ナ

It's a hundred degrees out.

I go straight for the ice cream, and **you** huddle up to me for warmth.

This just goes to show...

...we're from different worlds.

Just one example...

...of the many, many ways...

...our thoughts are as different as night and day.

Hee hee!

You think so?

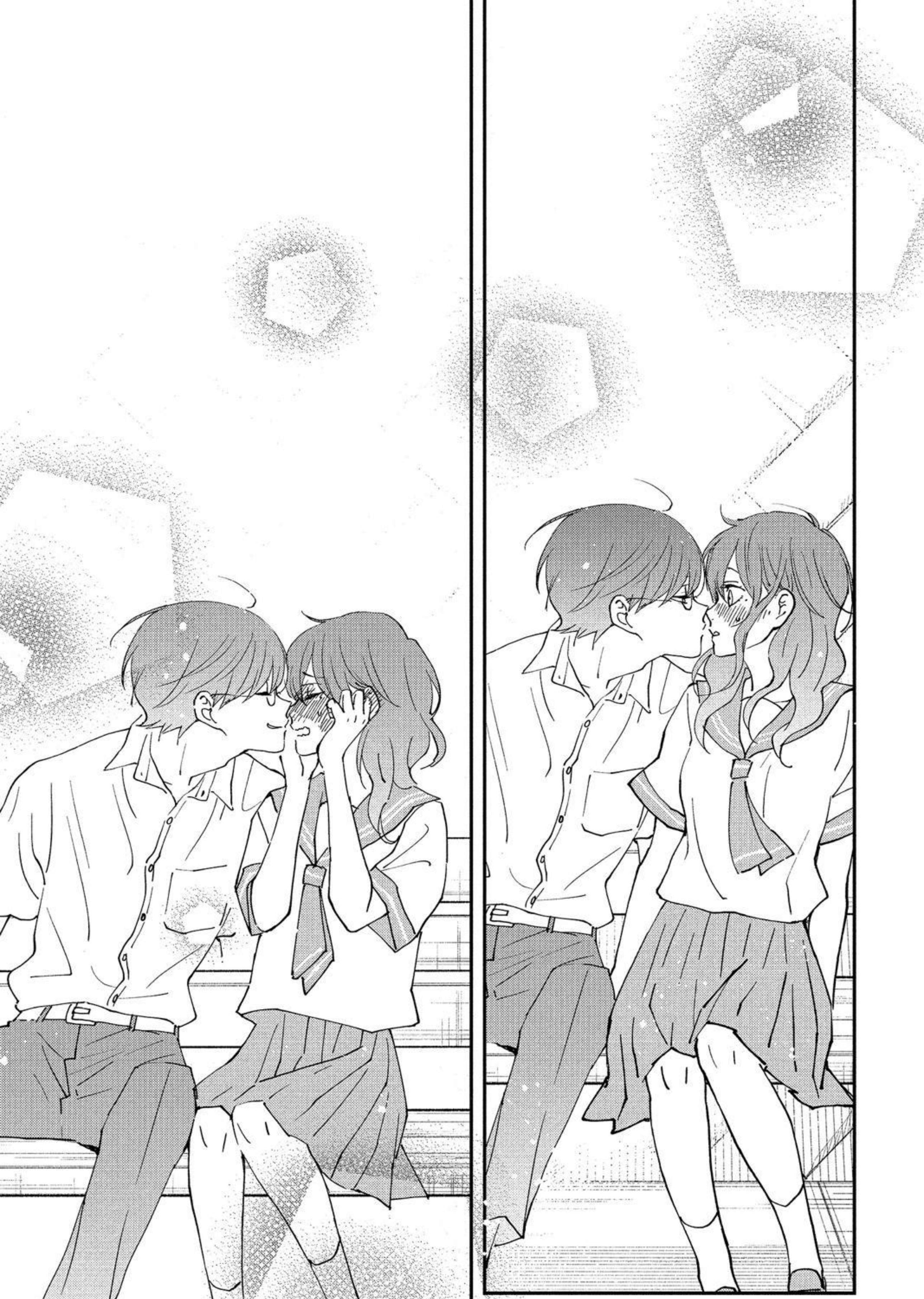
I never would have guessed...

...just how much we had in **common.**

I only hope...

...we can share this world forever.

!



Oh, yeah! Thanks for giving me those pickles the other day, Azuma-kun.

My grandmother couldn't get enough of them!

She liked them? That's good to hear.

at

KREE-EE-OOO

She says you're free to drop by for tea anytime.

Thank you...

...but I don't think your brother's all that fond of me, so...

んみんみんみ



Our Precious Conversations

It was at a train station not far from
The boy
She steeled
and aske

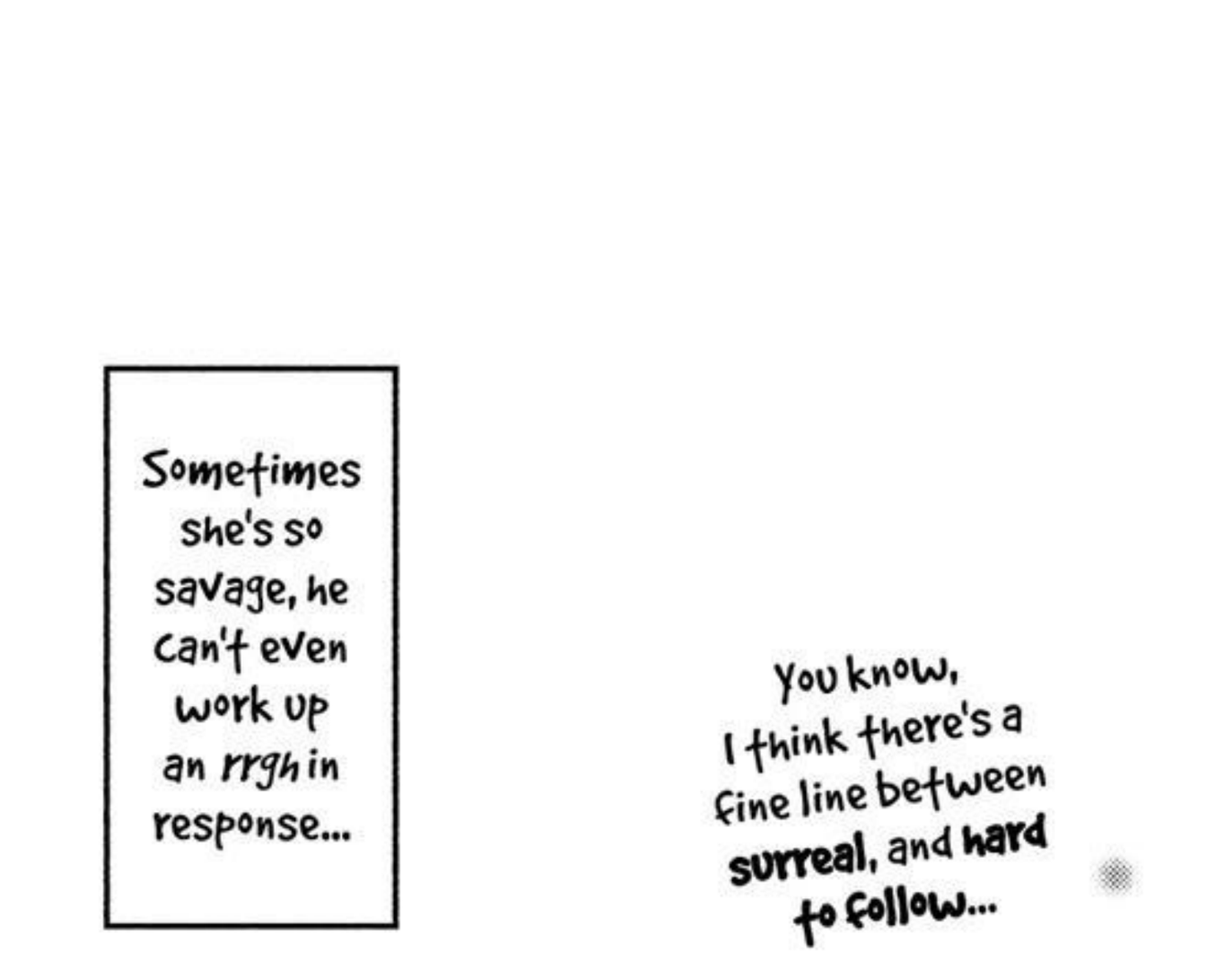
"Why is it
The boy

CHIIIT
CHIT-
CHIT

The End.

Sometimes she's so savage, he can't even work up an *rrgh* in response...

You know, I think there's a fine line between **surreal**, and **hard to follow**...



TOMORROW

Looks like good weather again...

...tomorrow.

CAUGHT RED-HANDED

Hmm?

Quick !!

Hey! C'mere!

FWEET! WAY TO GO, YOU TWO!

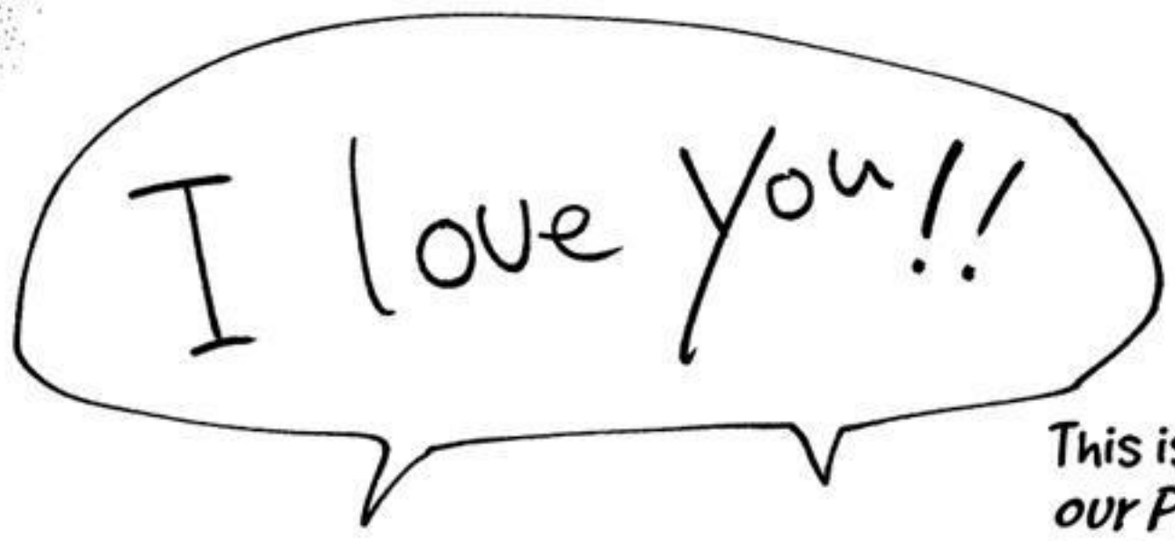
OH, MY GOD!

THEY KISSED!

Wait till they see it...!

I'm recording this.

AFTERWORD



This is the last volume of *our Precious conversations*. I got it in my head that I wanted to write a leisurely little story about some leisurely little conversations between a boy and a girl, and suddenly, here we are, seven whole volumes in.



For some reason, I always figured the story would end with Azuma-kun finally finishing up some writing of his own, but looking back on it, I sure took my time getting him there, huh?

Thank you so very much for reading Azuma-kun and Aizawa-san's story to the end. I hope to see you all again someday!

2020.3.13.

Robico

Special thanks!!

Shigetaka Suzuki-sama, Ajakko-sama, Nahe-sama, Maki-sama, Emi Maibara-sama, Riku Bancha-sama,

Nawata Kohei Design Jimusho

E N D

OUR Precious CONVERSATIONS

Our Precious Conversations 7

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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